Ginebra war pits Boss Danding vs Kapitan Lucio

Story below, Col. 5

Controversial lawyer GMA son's 'ninong'

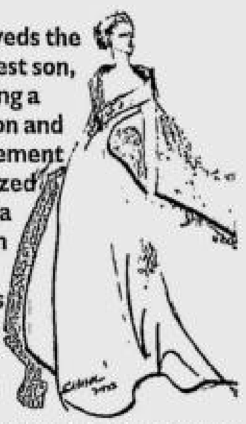
By Dona Pazzibugan

LAWYER Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza, who is being linked to the controversial Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, is now a full-fledged "*kumpare*" of the First Couple.

Villaraza will stand as one of the principal sponsors in the wedding of presiden-

CONTROVERSIAL/ A18

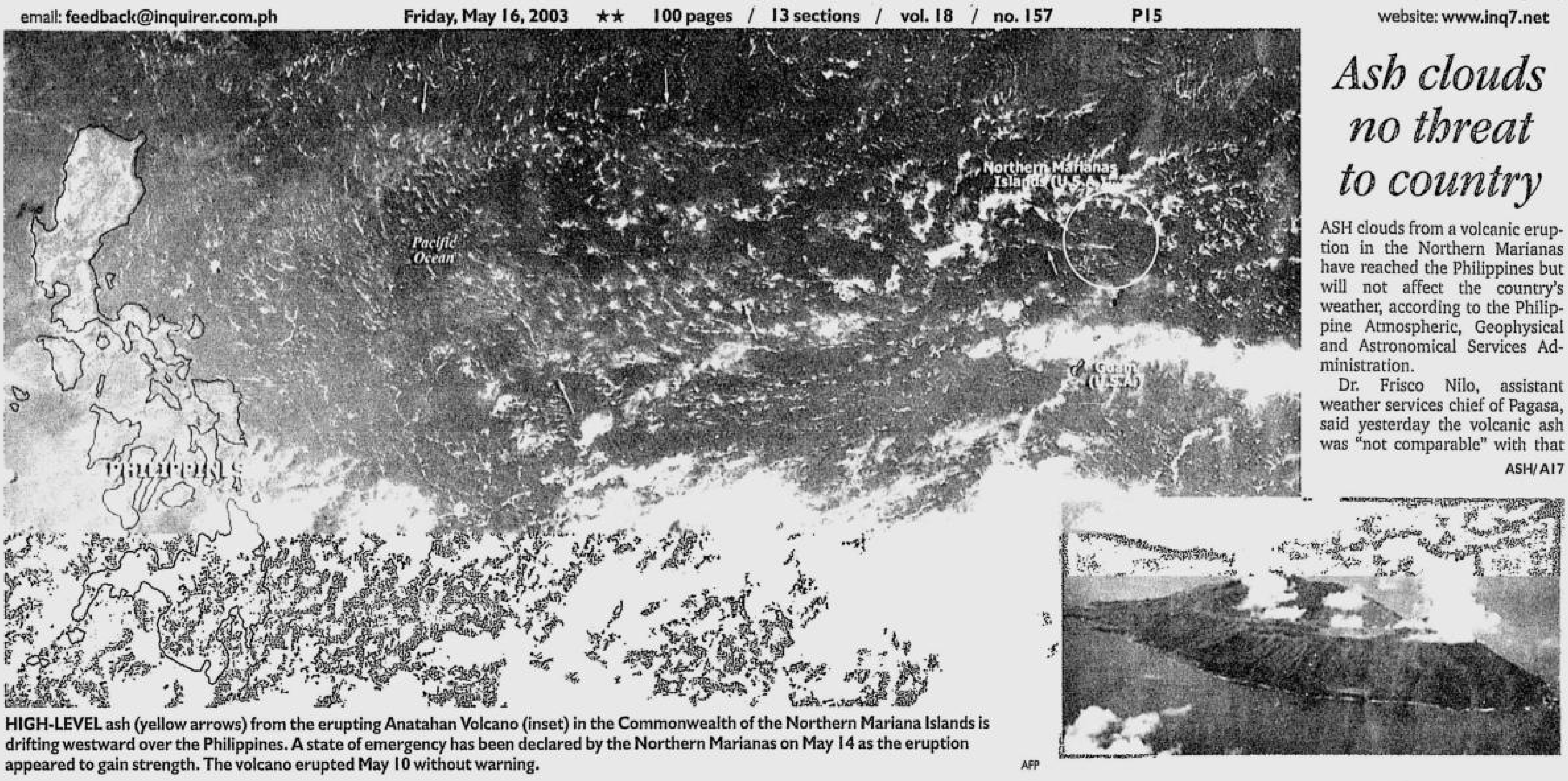
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



KAKAI Manotoc weds the President's youngest son, Dato, today wearing a Joe Salazar creation and her 4-carat engagement ring. The modernized and modified Maria Clara gown in satin silk organza features a princess cut A-line design sprinkled with leaves traced with Swarovski stones.

(See Lifestyle, Page F1)

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, May 16, 2003 ★★ 100 pages / 13 sections / vol. 18 / no. 157 P15 website: www.inq7.net



HIGH-LEVEL ash (yellow arrows) from the erupting Anatahan Volcano (inset) in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is drifting westward over the Philippines. A state of emergency has been declared by the Northern Marianas on May 14 as the eruption appeared to gain strength. The volcano erupted May 10 without warning.

AFP

Ash clouds no threat to country

ASH clouds from a volcanic eruption in the Northern Marianas have reached the Philippines but will not affect the country's weather, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Dr. Frisco Nilo, assistant weather services chief of Pagasa, said yesterday the volcanic ash was "not comparable" with that

ASH/ A17

Abus plan attack on GIs

Washington travel advisory angers Malaysia

ABU SAYYAF bandits who received fresh combat and explosives training from two Indonesian instructors are planning to attack US troops who will be deployed in Sulu province, confidential military debriefings of three former hostages have revealed.

The disclosure came in the wake of a stark travel advisory issued the other day by the US Department of State: The Abu Sayyaf remains a threat, therefore travel to parts of Southeast Asia, especially Malaysia, may still be unsafe.

An angry Malaysia lashed back at Washington, saying it was creating "scares all over the world." But Australia followed its US ally yesterday by issuing heightened travel warnings for its citizens traveling to Thailand, Malaysia, East Timor, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines. Similar warnings were issued for Indonesia on Wednesday.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf had intensified because of the US warning of possible new terrorist attacks in the country and in Malaysia.

According to summaries of debriefings seen by the Associated Press, two Filipino women—Jehovah's Witnesses Cleofe Montulo and Emily Mantic—and Indonesian sailor Julkifli, who escaped last month after several months of jungle captivity gave insights into how the ragtag al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf has survived military offensives on Jolo island.

One of the women who escaped said she overheard Abu Sayyaf bandits talk-

ABUS/ A18

Moro rebels topple eleven electric posts

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

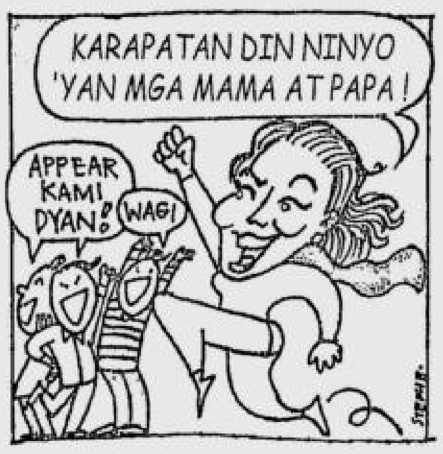
COTABATO CITY—Suspected members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front used chainsaws to cut down at least 11 electric posts in Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat, plunging some parts of the province into darkness on Wednesday.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said men in the employ of a local politician who wanted to justify a request for at least 500 firearms were the ones who had carried out the sabotage.

The attack put peace negotiations even more in doubt, even as Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said yesterday he was open to the idea of letting the United States mediate peace between the government and the MILF.

Reyes said the government was already co-

MORO/ A18


KARAPATAN DIN NINYO 'YAN MGA MAMA AT PAPA!
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WAG!

Honor gays on 'X-Men' day, urges Imee

IMEE Marcos, who recently guested in a TV sitcom as a red-caped superhero, said Filipinos should now mark a special day honoring "'X-Men,'" the latest lingo for members of the gay community.

Like the mutant characters in the current sci-fi movie, real-life "X-Men" should be given equal treatment and recognition, the Ilocos Norte representative and rumored senatorial aspirant said yesterday.

Members of the "third sex," Marcos

HONOR/ A20

Death came while Getulio was sleeping

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MATAASNAKAHOY, Batangas—Death came while he was sleeping.

That fateful Monday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Getulio Templo spent five hours doing overtime work, had a bite at the mess hall, and then walked to his flat. He was in bed by 11:30 p.m., 30 minutes before the bomb attacks on three expatriate housing complexes, including one for overseas Filipino workers.

The debris from the explosions—suspected as the handiwork of al-Qaida—buried him alive and killed him while he slept exhausted in flat No. 61.7, where he had lived for 11 years.

He would have been 48 on July 18.

As she recounted to the INQUIRER the last hours of her husband, known to family and friends as Terry, Meriam Templo realized that she still could not stop crying.

"I have been crying since Tuesday," said Meriam, 42. "I think my tears have dried up. But every time I talk about Terry, the pain of losing him still brings tears to my eyes."

Meriam said she heard the news on TV at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. She thought Terry was not among those killed because the spelling of his name was different.

"But then I called a friend of mine, Jane Baines, who also lived there, to confirm," she said.

Jane was crying when she answered the

DEATH/ A19

PDI SOUTHERN LUZON

FOR WANT of a car for his wife Meriam (in photo), Getulio Templo stayed at his job as a communications technician in Riyadh longer than he had planned.

Dayrit reports 2 new SARS cases

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday reported two more SARS cases in the country as officials from China, Japan, South Korea and the 10-member Asean met here to discuss tough measures on how to stop the spread of the deadly virus by air travel.

The jet-setting virus that has killed more than 600 people is inflicting the worst crisis that the global aviation industry has known, according to Andrew Drysdale, International Air Transport Association (Iata) regional vice president.

Dayrit announced the two new cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome on the sidelines of the two-day "Asean + 3 Aviation Forum on the Prevention and Containment of SARS" at the former US air base in Pampanga.

One victim was a 34-year-old female software technician who returned from Taiwan in the first week of May and the other was a 63-year-old businessman who arrived from Singapore in the second week of April.

Dayrit said the two—both Filipinos—had recovered. The technician has been discharged, but the businessman is still in the hospital.

The two did not have symptoms of SARS when they first arrived in the coun-

DAYRIT/ A17

Ginebra war pits 'Boss' vs 'Kapitan'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A BATTLE royal reminiscent of the "Beer na Beer" fracas 15 years ago is about to erupt, with tycoons Eduardo Cojuangco and Lucio Tan taking personal interest in the latest chapter of the booze-market saga.

Tan's Tanduay Distillers Inc. is set to launch a number of gin products bearing the Ginebra name to challenge the dominance of the market leader, Ginebra San Miguel of La Tondeña Distillers Inc., the liquor subsidiary of the Cojuangco-controlled San Miguel Corp.

According to data from the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), Tanduay filed this year trademarks for at least seven gin products: Ginebra Kapitan, Ginebra Agila, Ginebra Heneral, Ginebra

GINEBRA/ A20

Friends paid for TV ads, says Reyes

By Martin P. Marfil

HE was not exactly put on the defensive when Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was asked about the television ads that portray him as a "take charge" guy when confronted by calamities and disasters.

"Friends (spent for it). It's not

FRIENDS/ A20

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/16/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

GMA declares ₱1-B war on drugs

By Carlito Pablo

ALREADY fighting a war against terrorism, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday opened another major battle front, this time against illegal drugs.

The President has directed that P1 billion of the lotto earnings of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office be used to bankroll the fight against illegal drugs.

"There is an urgent need to pursue a forceful, intensive and unrelenting campaign against drug trafficking and the use of illegal drugs, whether syndicated or street-level," she said.

Under Executive Order No. 206 dated May 15, she ordered the revival of the drug enforcement units of the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Customs.

These units were abolished when Republic Act No. 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, was enacted, creating the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) as the main anti-drug agency.

The law also gave the responsibility of formulating policy and strategy in drug prevention and control to the Dangerous Drugs Board.

Under EO 206, Ms Macapagal ordered the creation of an anti-drug task force within the Office of the President.

She also directed that the PDEA exercise operational supervision and provide technical support to the main anti-drug task force of the PNP.

In the case of other task forces, the President would determine which of the DDB or PDEA would exercise operational supervision, the EO said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo announces the billion-peso fight against illegal drugs in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. EDWIN BACASMAS

Presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao said the PDEA was "presently in a transition period and still has to develop its institutional capacities," hence the need to organize the task forces, the main one being that of the PNP.

The President chose to announce the intensified war against illegal drugs in a speech before communist rebel returnees in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, yesterday.

"Drug syndicates do not respect race, religion and beliefs just like terrorists. We should, therefore, treat them the same," she said.

"How many of our people are dying because of drugs? If we can set aside P1 billion for our workers in the Middle East and P1 billion for SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), what more for the drug menace that has killed several thousands of our people," she said in her speech.

Ms Macapagal had earlier set aside P1 billion each for contingency programs to ensure the safety of Filipino workers in the Middle East during the Iraq war and to contain the SARS outbreak.

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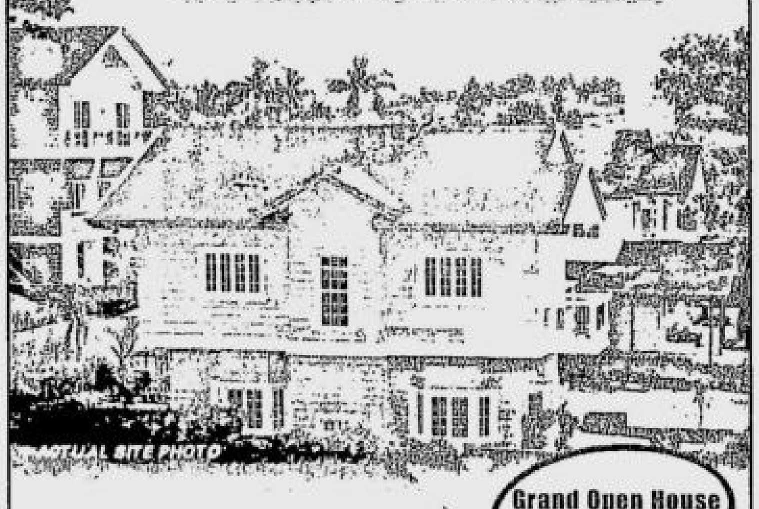

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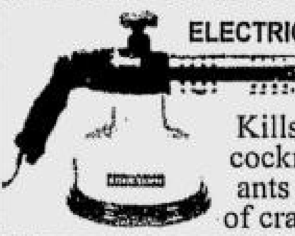

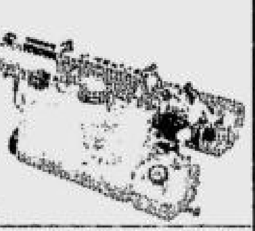

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Name solons coddling drug traffickers, chief narc urged

SENATE President Franklin Drilon said yesterday he would ask the new chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to explain his statement that certain lawmakers, including a senator, were coddling drug traffickers.

Drilon said it was "totally irresponsible" of PDEA Executive Director Anselmo Avenido to make statements to the media before briefing the Senate President on the alleged senator-drug coddler.

Avenido has not seen him or made a report to him, Drilon said at a news briefing.

"I will not tolerate any official of this government being involved in drugs, even if he is a senator. But respect for the office of the senator indicates that the President of the Senate should be informed of the evidence and we will act accordingly," he said

In an interview with ABS-CBN television the other day, the PDEA chief said the agency had certain lawmakers under surveillance on suspicion they were coddling drug traffickers.

Both Senators Loren Legarda and Joker Arroyo said the PDEA should reveal the identities of the lawmakers as the allegation was serious.

Arroyo said it was unfair for the PDEA to make only a general statement. "They should come out with a list."

Legarda said this has placed all lawmakers under suspicion. She questioned why the PDEA publicly announced its findings if they were just suspicions, pointing out that this defeated the purpose of placing the officials concerned under surveillance.

Meanwhile, the PDEA has asked the Philippine National Police to look into the possible link of a police major to a drug syndicate operating in Bacolod City.

Avenido identified the officer as Maj. Demosthenes Fernandez, who has been relieved of his post at the Intelligence Group in Cebu City.

Avenido said Fernandez had tried to interfere in a joint PDEA-PNP surveillance operation on Jan. 11 at the Tanoshi KTV bar in Bacolod owned by Jose Kim Cuadra.

Fernandez reportedly came out of the bar, identified himself as a colonel and accosted the team of operatives.

For undermining the operation, he was taken to the city police station for investigation. The matter was amicably settled, Avenido said.

Fernandez later filed charges of assault against the PDEA personnel and policemen who had brought him to the police station, he said.

Cuadra is the alleged leader of the Cuadra syndicate based in Bacolod City. *Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio*

Strunk could escape 'death'

EVEN before he is extradited and tried in a Philippine court, Rod Lauren Strunk, the main suspect in the murder of his actress-wife Nida Blanca, may have already escaped the death penalty.

Ricardo Diaz, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation's Interpol unit, said one of the provisions in the country's extradition treaty with the United States requires the requesting country to guarantee that the person being extradited would not be given the death sentence if convicted.

Diaz said President Macapagal-Arroyo would have to issue a "sovereign guarantee" that if the extraditee were to be convicted of a capital offense, the sentence would be commuted to life imprisonment.

"But that will happen later. We are still in the initial stages of the extradition process," Diaz said.

Justice Undersecretary Merceditas N. Gutierrez said, however, that the provision prohibiting imposition of the death penalty only applied to cases in which the requested state, in this case the US, does not allow capital punishment.

The state of California, however, imposes the maximum penalty of death for capital offenses.

Strunk was arrested by US marshals in California on May 13 and is being held in an undisclosed facility.

Gutierrez said the Philippines had requested Strunk's provisional arrest to guarantee his appearance during extradition hearings. *Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac*

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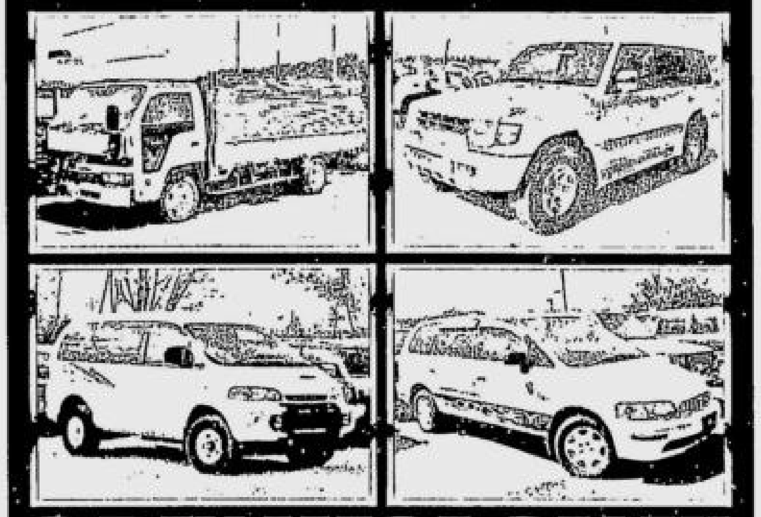

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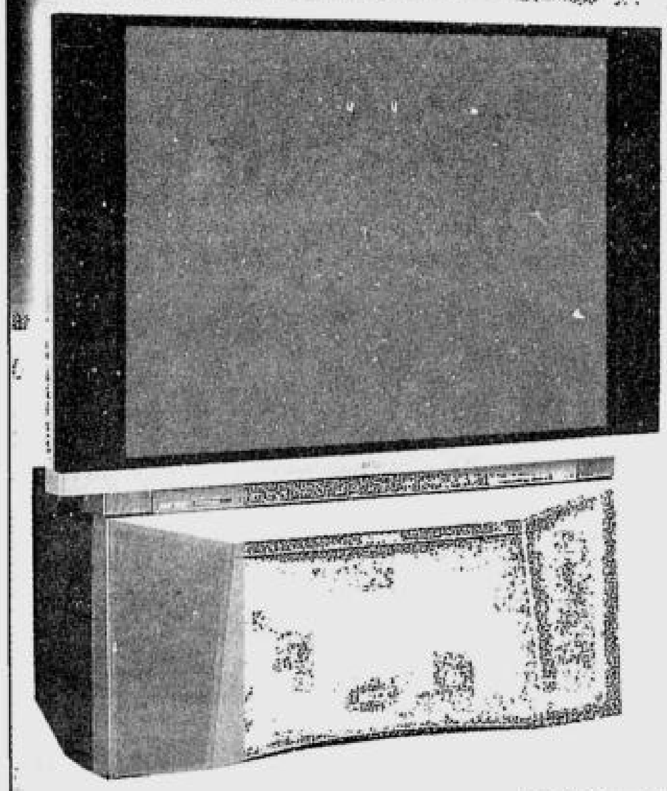

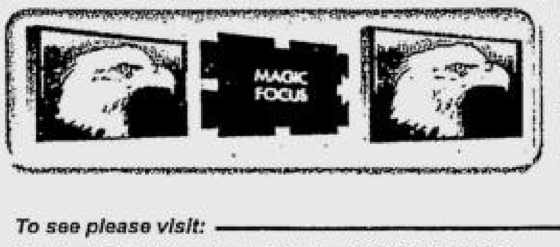

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DOH seeks two-week delay in school opening to prepare for SARS

THE DEPARTMENT of Health wants the opening of classes in June deferred for two weeks to give schools all over the country more time to prepare for the threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and other ailments that abound during the rainy season.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit made the recommendation in a May 14 letter to Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of the Senate education committee, who had inquired about the DOH position on resetting the 2003 school calendar due to the SARS scare.

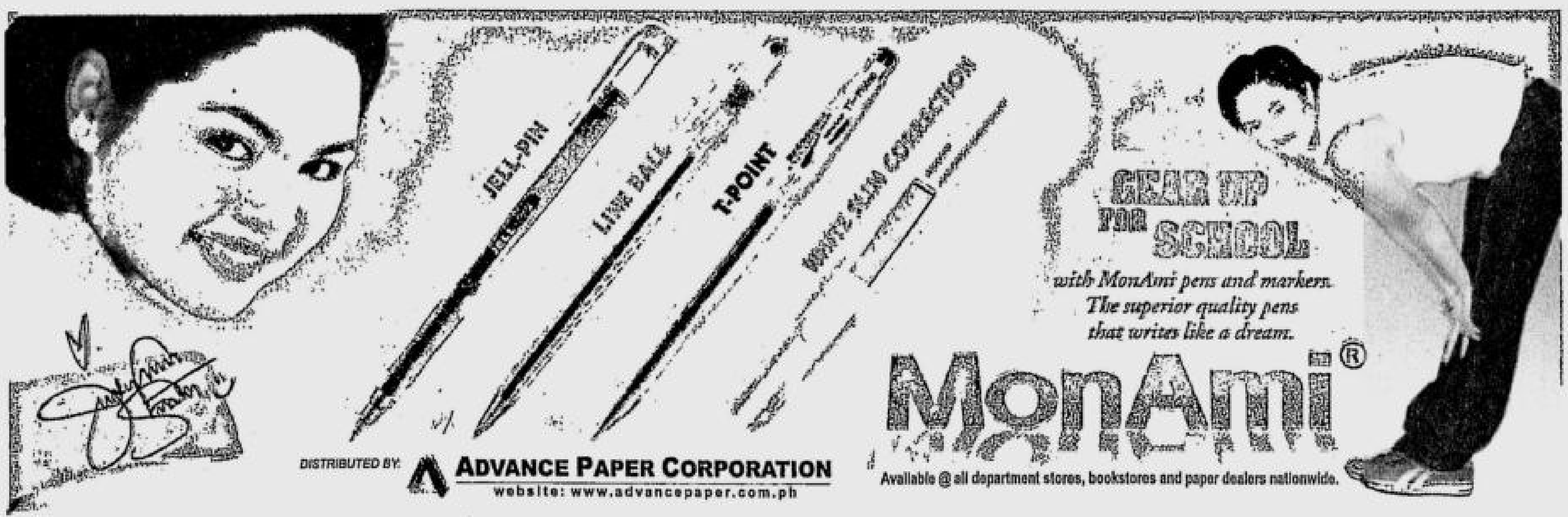
Dayrit, however, said there was "no compelling reason" to move the start of classes to September, as advocated by no less than the President herself.

"If the reason is to prevent anxiety among schoolchildren, teachers and parents about SARS or even to prevent its transmission, then the postponement of classes will not help at all since the disease will most likely affect the global community way beyond September 2003," Dayrit said in his letter to Pangilinan, who in turn gave copies of it to reporters.

Dayrit said there was also no need to postpone classes because of the heavy rains expected from June to August, saying the solution to this are "effective flood and traffic control mechanisms."

But he said the DOH was recommending a two-week deferment of the opening of classes in June.

"Given the concern about SARS, the DOH recommends that the two weeks be dedicated to raising the preparedness of schools with regard to measures against SARS and other health problems such as dengue, leptospirosis, etc.," he said. *Christine O. Avendaño*



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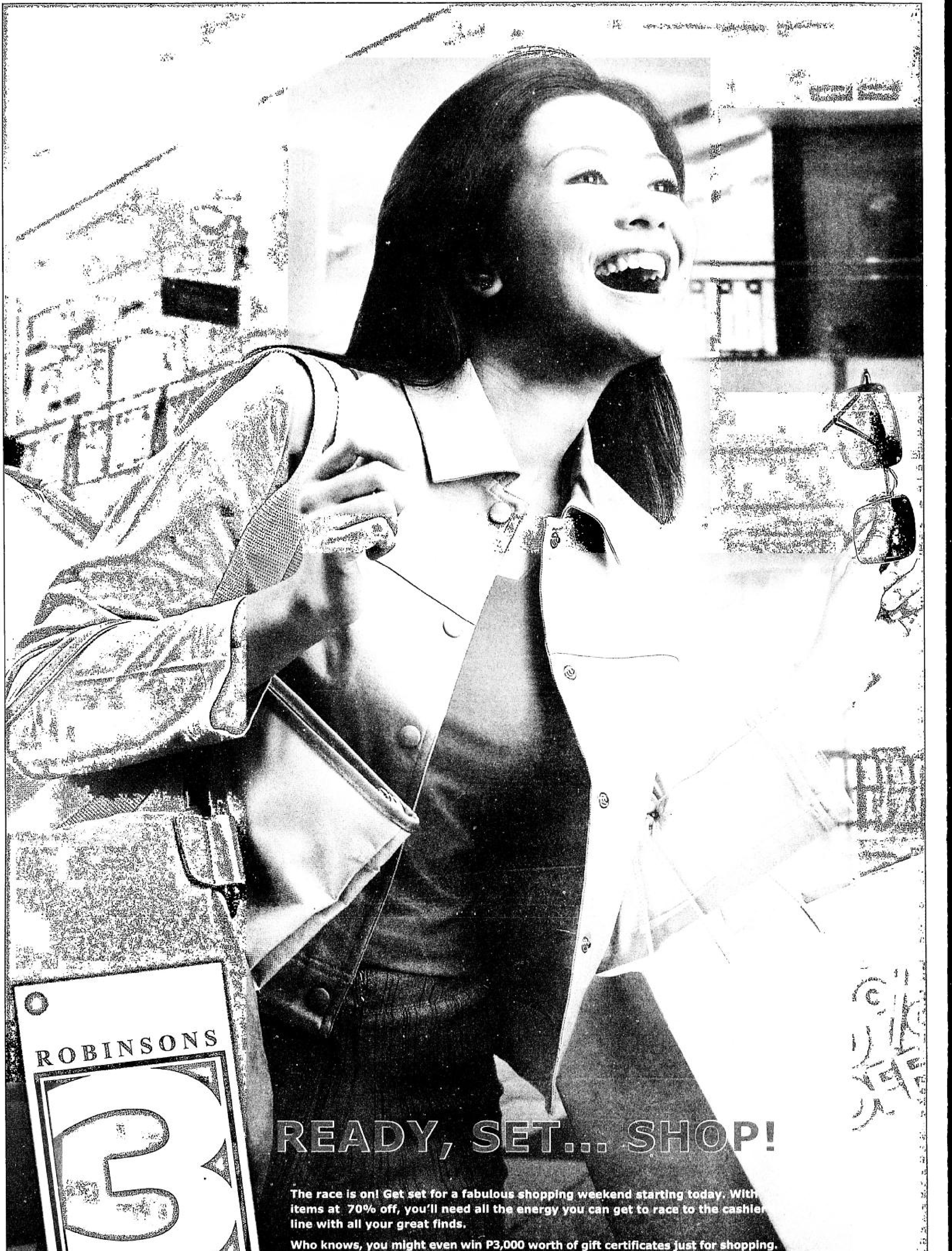

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Meralco: No interest to be paid on refund

By Ronnel W. Domingo

UTILITY giant Manila Electric Co. said the Supreme Court decision ordering it to refund customers over nine years worth of overcharges did not say anything about paying interest on the amount, even as the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) said the power distributor might have to consider this.

"The court's decision mentioned only the 16.7-centavo per kilowatt-hour [overcharge] that it disallowed," said Ivanna de la Peña, Meralco's chief of utility economics.

Consumer groups on Thursday demanded that the interest, amounting to between P6.4 billion and P6.8 billion, be included in the refund Meralco is to give its customers.

Income tax payment

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said its data showed the 16.7-centavo overcharge that went to paying Meralco's income tax now totals P30.8 billion, or P300 million more than Meralco's stated amount of P30.5 billion.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition said its data showed the interest accrued over nine years was P6.2 billion.

Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes Jr. said their computation was based on Meralco's six-percent yield on customer deposits.

(A customer shells out the deposit—equivalent to his estimated consumption for a month plus half the price of the electric meter—before Meralco starts delivering electricity. He will get back the money when he ends his subscription for the utility's services.)

"We, as guardians of consumer interest, will raise this matter when we meet with Meralco officials on May 26," said ERC chair Manuel Sanchez.

Phase 1 covers 1.4 million consumers, or 37 percent of the total 3.9 million Meralco customers.

Escrow account

Other groups like the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms demanded that the P30 billion overcharge be put in an escrow account.

"They should go to a regular court for that," Sanchez said. "The ERC has no authority to issue such an order."

As for the 16.7-centavo per kWh overcharge that the Supreme Court ordered stopped, Sanchez said this would no longer appear in customers' bills starting in June.

Sanchez said ERC and Meralco officials will meet on May 26 to discuss the second round of refunds that will affect the majority of consumers.

"Phase 2 will cover middle-sized users while Phase 3 will cover bulk users," the official said.

Meralco officials, meanwhile, said at a media briefing that refunds under Phase 2 "would depend on (the firm's) cash flow."

Meralco president Jesus Francisco said the company had two problems regarding the refund.

"One is our cash flow. We can only handle so much," he said.

The other problem is logistics, or how to identify the beneficiaries and give them back the money, he said.

Divers face raps for spear-fishing in protected reef

CHARGES have been brought before the NBI Environment Task Force against a businessman and his companions for allegedly spear-fishing in the ecologically protected Apo Reef Marine Natural Park in Occidental Mindoro.

Businessman Tony Ang and his friends, who were unidentified, allegedly violated the law on National Integrated Protected Areas (Republic Act No. 7586), which prohibits the hunting and taking of animals and plants from protected areas without a permit. Violation merits a penalty of up to six years in prison and a fine of P500,000.

Ang and company were reportedly diving from his yacht, the Tiara II, on April 19 when another group of divers on the Oceanic Explorer saw them spear-fishing in the protected waters.

The witnesses took pictures of the incident and filed a complaint with the park warden from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

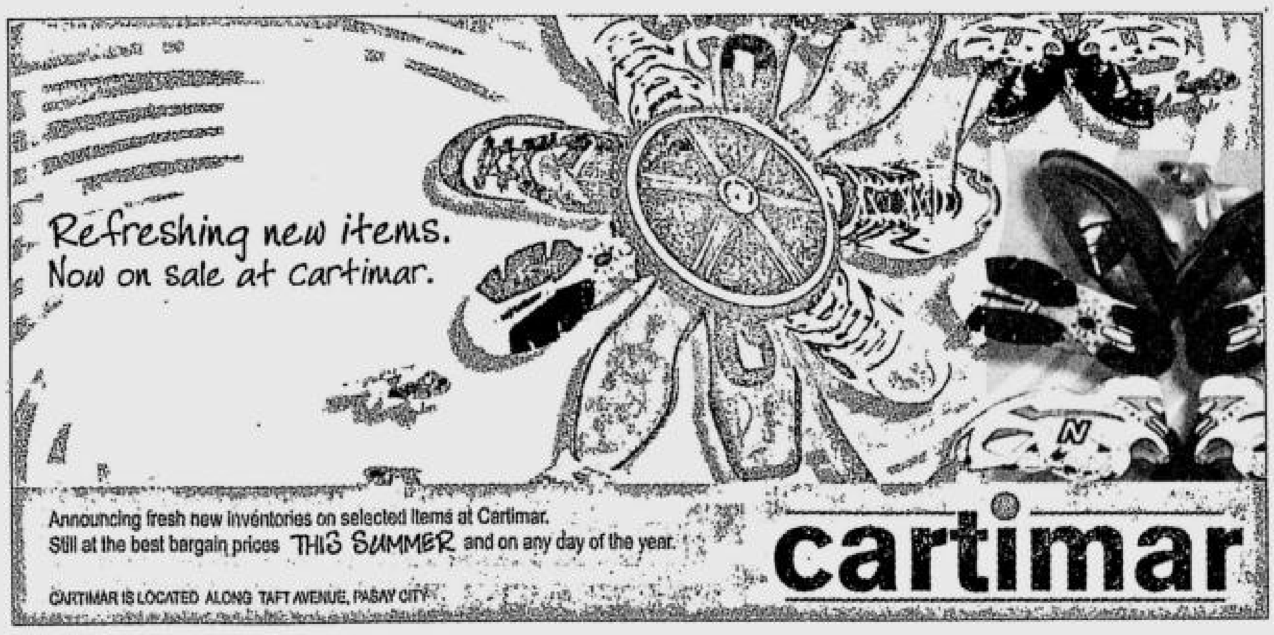
Yacht banned

The DENR and the Protected Areas Management Board of the Apo Reef park has banned the Tiara II from the park.

The Apo Reef legal defense team, comprised mainly of scuba divers, has been organized to help the DENR prosecute the case. The team is composed of lawyers Jimbo Flores, Cris Uy, Harry Roque, Val del Rosario and internationally known environmental lawyer Tony Oposa.

Apo Reef Marine Natural Park is a prime diving location covering a total of 24,469 hectares. It was declared a marine park through Presidential Proclamation No. 1801 in 1980 and a protected area under the category of "natural park" by President Fidel V. Ramos through Proclamation No. 868 on Sept. 6, 1996.

Leodivico N. Mamuntos, community environment and natural resources officer and acting protected area superintendent of Apo Reef park, filed the charges against Ang and company together with witnesses Toni J. Efune, Juan Y. Wee, Cristina V. Uy, Gigi V. Santos, Patrick S. Uy-Tioco, George S. Uy-Tioco, Richard Ang, Eric Jean-Claude Dudoignon-Valade and Maria Ana Consuelo "Jamby" A. S. Madrigal.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- EFFECTIVE WRITTEN COMMUNICATION May 19 - 30, 2003 M-W-F 6:00PM-8:00PM
- CREDIT AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT (Effective Collection : How I Works) May 10 – 24, 2003 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL May 17, 2003 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- TRAINING PEOPLE ON TELEPHONE BEHAVIOR May 17, 2003 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- SITE DEVELOPMENT AND MASS HOUSING May 24 - June 7, 2003 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
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OPINION

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Useless ultimatum

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has given an ultimatum to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. By June 1, she said, they must surrender their comrades who carried out the raid in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, and the bombings in Davao City and Koronadal, dissociate themselves from known terrorist organizations like the Abu Sayyaf and al-Qaida, and stop their "terrorist" activities. Otherwise, she warned, the MILF will be officially declared as a terrorist organization.

It's not only the President who seems to think that being labelled as a terrorist is the worst thing that could happen to the MILF. Everyone in the government, from the President to her Cabinet down to some local officials has been brandishing it like it were the ultimate weapon assuring the MILF's total destruction. The problem is that such threat has not made very many MILF members quake in their boots. On the contrary, they have been acting lately as if they themselves were in a great hurry to earn that label. Whereas before they were quick to deny any involvement in the bombings near the Davao airport and the Sasa wharf, lately they have shown no qualms about accepting responsibility for last week's raid in Siocon which left 32 people dead and the Koronadal blast that killed nine people last Saturday.

The MILF leadership has in fact merely shrugged off the President's ultimatum. MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu boasted: "We have been threatened that we will be pulverized and bombed out of existence, and now they are using this terrorist label. We have been threatened enough and nothing can scare us anymore."

What made the administration think that a terrorist tag would make the MILF mend its ways, if not raise the white flag of surrender? A number of officials have outlined the consequences of being tagged as a terrorist organization. First, it is supposed to stop the flow of foreign funds to the MILF. Second, it would give the military the green light to launch a sustained offensive.

One congressman said a terrorist tag would provide the administration a reason to ask foreign governments to freeze the assets and cut off foreign funding sources of the MILF. Was he saying the government has been waiting for that before employing its political influence and diplomatic skills to stop the flow of funds? The MILF has never been known as a charitable or development organization. It has always been a secessionist rebel organization. So what legitimate reasons could there be for any foreign group or government to support it?

The second objective is just as ridiculous. For since when has the military felt bound by any restraints to go after the separatist rebels? Certainly not since government forces drove away the MILF from Buliok. Indeed, the military has seized every opportunity to score against the rebels just as the rebels have taken every opportunity to attack government patrols and outposts.

There is one sure outcome of declaring the MILF a terrorist organization: a much wider and longer conflict and possibly more terrorist attacks on civilian targets. Kabalu said such labelling would mean "the government is closing the door to the peace process and pursuing a military solution."

That is, of course, the solution favored by many in the administration and the military as well as an increasing number of citizens, people who have grown tired and angry at the killings and depredations of the MILF. But the key question is: Will it work? Will more bloodshed move Mindanao closer to peace? Ferdinand Marcos tried it for more than a decade and it didn't work. Other presidents have also tried it at one time or the other, and still the insurgency remained. What makes the President and the military believe that an all-out war now is the only way to peace?

An old alliance

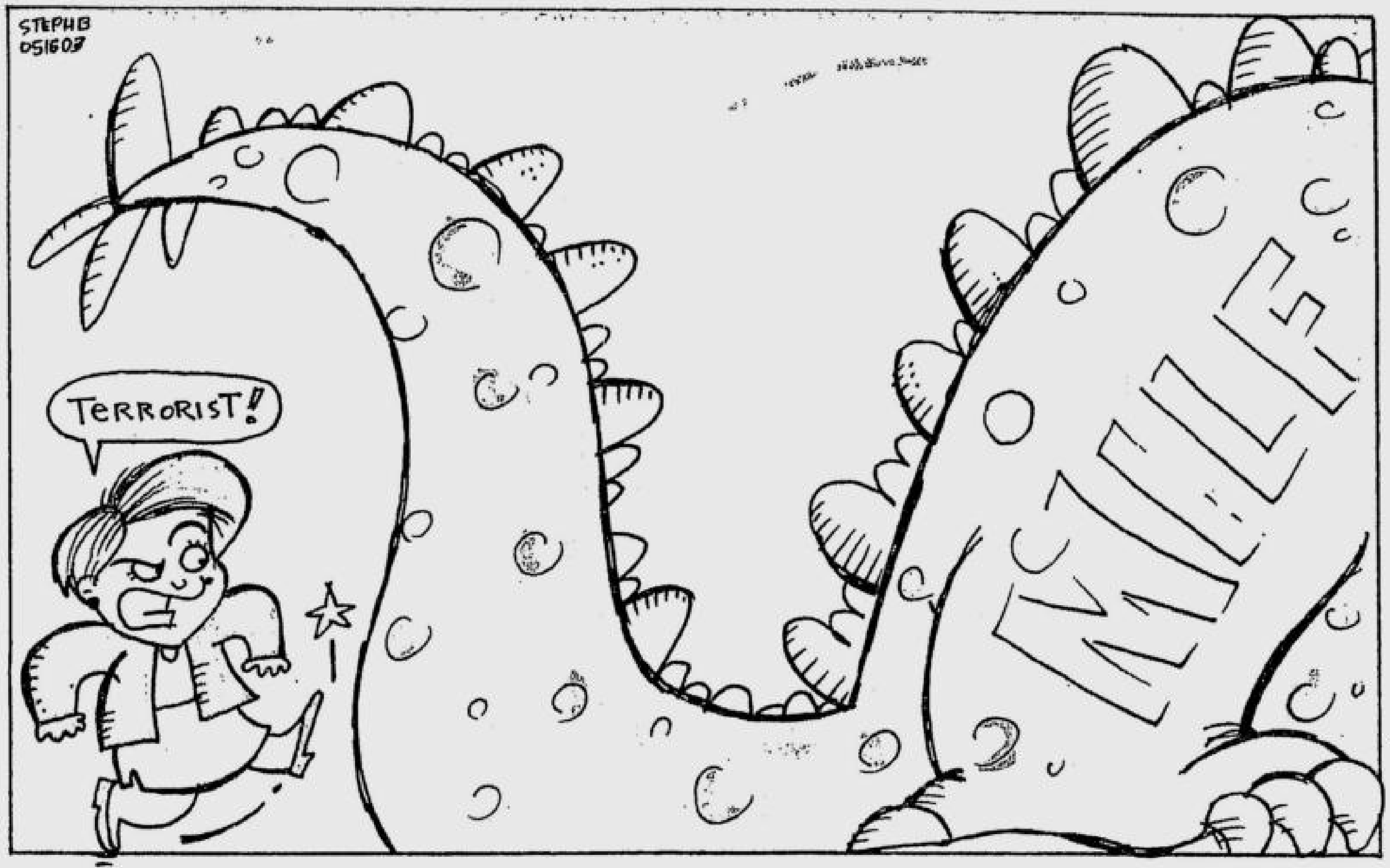
FOREIGN COMMENT

THERE is no older strategic alliance than that of the United States and France. Relations between these two friends of 230 years have rarely been as damaged as they are today. Is this reasonable?

The answer is no. The two nations share the same values, the same culture, the same economic interests ... It would be ridiculous to fall out over a question, Iraq, that is peripheral compared to the vital interests of our countries.

It is too early to judge the results of the Anglo-American invasion of Iraq ... France's job is to do everything so that the Americans succeed, because the interest of the entire West is at stake.

Le Figaro (Paris)



Slow justice in Barbers poll case

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

A COMMON complaint in the Philippines is that the wheel of justice turns so slowly. And the slowest wheel can be found in the highest court of the land, the Supreme Court. An advice of veteran lawyers to the young ones is this: "If you can't win a case, delay it. And if you want to delay a case, elevate it to the Supreme Court."

Appeals by litigants to the magistrates for the resolution of their cases have no effect. They just throw them into the wastebasket or bury them in the files. Some people suspect the justices don't even get to read them. The secretaries, probably acting on orders, just get rid of them. Sometimes a clerk of court issues orders in the name of the tribunal perhaps without the knowledge of the justices.

Justice delayed is justice denied is an often-quoted aphorism, but judges and justices pay it only lip service. Nowhere is this more true than in election cases. Here, delay is the name of the game. The politician complained of, but who is already occupying the position, has the advantage. All he has to do is use all the legal tricks to delay the case. His term would be over or almost over by the time the case is resolved. If the complainant wins, his is an empty victory. Often, only one or two months of the term is left. The usurper has already collected almost all of the salaries and allowances that rightfully belongs to him.

One such case is that of Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Lyndon Smith Barbers, son of the incumbent senator. (All the senator's sons are named Robert; they are distinguishable only by their second names, just like all the sons of Diosdado Macapagal crony Amable Aguiluz all of whose sons are named Amable and can be distinguished only by the Roman numerals at the end of their names.)

A case has been filed against Robert Lyndon alleging that he is disqualified from running for governor as he is a naturalized American citizen. But his term is about to end next year and yet the case is still languishing in the Supreme Court.

The complainant, Ernesto T. Matugas, has already written to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., pleading for a speedy resolution of the case (GR 151944) but there's no movement. Maybe they're waiting until only two months of the term are left before resolving the case.

The case for disqualification was initially filed with the Commission on Elections on April 16, 2001. Despite the avalanche of documentary evidence proving that Robert Lyndon is an American citizen, the Commission on Elections dismissed the petition "for insufficiency of evidence," a catch-all phrase when a court wants to dismiss a case.

Matugas obtained certifications from the US Immigration and Naturalization Service and from the Philippine consulate in Los Angeles that Robert Lyndon was naturalized as an American citizen on Oct. 11, 1991 in Los Angeles, California and filed the appeal with the Supreme Court on Feb. 13, 2002.

On Oct. 10 and 15, 2002, Robert Lyndon and Matugas filed their respective memoranda, and on Dec. 10, 2002, the Supreme Court en banc issued a resolution in which it resolved to note the submission of such memoranda.

"The issuance of the Dec. 10, 2002 Resolution has given me hope that said case will finally be resolved with dispatch, considering that there is great and vital public interest involved in the early resolution of the case," wrote Matugas in his letter to Davide.

Matugas' hope is wilting on the vine. The case has not been acted upon until now.

"I would like to stress, Mr. Chief Justice," Matugas continued, "that I filed the said case not so much for my self-aggrandizement but for the resolution of that more important question affecting public interest, that is whether (or not) to allow the continuing insult (to) and indignity of a province being governed by an American citizen."

Robert Lyndon's sympathizers are invoking the decision in the case of Edu Manzano against whom a petition for disqualification was also filed when he ran for vice mayor of Makati on the ground that he is an American citizen. The Court decided in his favor, saying that he possessed dual citizenship.

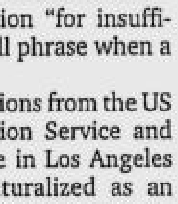
But the Manzano case is not identical to that of Robert Lyndon. Manzano was born in the United States of Filipino parents. Under US law, Manzano is an American citizen. Anybody, regardless of parentage, born in the United States automatically becomes a US citizen. But under the Philippine law, Manzano is also a Filipino citizen. Under this law, any offspring of Filipino parents are Filipino citizens regardless of where they were born. Manzano, therefore, is both a Filipino citizen and American citizen.

Robert Lyndon's is a different case altogether. He was born here of Filipino parents (although his mother is an ethnic American, she is a Filipino citizen), but he was naturalized according to the evidence as an American citizen on Oct. 11, 1991 in Los Angeles. The Manzano doctrine cannot apply to Robert Lyndon.

This discussion does not reflect negatively on Robert Lyndon or his father or his family, however. Rather it reflects on the snail's pace of the Supreme Court. The slow wheel of justice is denying justice to Matugas and other litigants like him.

Guess who's coming to dinner

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

EARLY this week, a team of suicide attackers shot their way into three compounds housing foreigners in a suburb of Riyadh, setting off car bombs. The blasts killed about 50 people, including 12 Americans and three Filipinos, and injured hundreds of others. The attack was meant to greet US Secretary of State Colin Powell, who had just landed in Riyadh from Jordan in the course of a Middle East tour. It was, said Agence France Press, "the first major attack on the US and Western interests since the US-led war on Iraq, which critics had warned could fan hatred of America across the Middle East."

The last was patent after the attack. The condemnation from the Saudi government was swift but perfunctory. There were no voices echoing in lamentation in the desert for the dead. Or indeed in the House of Saud itself.

The attack should offer a reality check to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who is visiting the United States this weekend and who seems to think it a signal honor for her and her country that she has been invited by George W. Bush for dinner. The attack sends a message to GMA's host that it is premature to bring out the champagne and to GMA that there is a price to pay for crowing over the dead in Iraq. As critics of the Iraq war indeed kept warning, the military aspect of that war would end swiftly but not so its political effects. The latter has just begun to unfold.

That is just one of the things that makes GMA's visit to the United States, which her spin doctors are touting as the best thing to have happened to this country, the worst thing to have happened to this country. The triumphalism, or chest-thumping, cannot be lost on those who lost loved ones in the gratuitous Iraq war—the occupation army has yet to discover Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, a fact that has since become a huge embarrassment to Tony Blair who dwelt on it in one impassioned speech after another. Even if it hasn't to Bush, most Americans not caring a hoot what reasons they have for invading another country.

For this country, which has 1.5 workers in the Gulf, that visit could spell big trouble. The consequences of GMA thinking she now straddles the world like the new Carlos P. Romulo—remember the little fellow trailing behind the Americans in the Leyte landing, whose bravery Claro M. Recto reduced to "fighting heroically to keep his head above water in MacArthur's backwash"?—goes beyond her needing therapy to rid herself of the need to overcompensate for lack of height. They go on to expose the Filipinos in the Gulf to scorn and danger. It is not just GMA's business if she wants to bury her head in the sand and imagine the world stands in awe and admiration of Bush and Donald Rumsfeld. It is every Filipino's business, above all those who have relatives in the Gulf. Not least of them, folk in Pampanga. They have to pay for her illusions.

The visit raises other issues as well. Chief of them, what other things GMA would be willing to give the United States as a presumed sidekick. She has already nearly single-handedly—nearly because she has had help from not-so-former generals and very former activists—brought us back to the 1950s, when we prided ourselves in being America's right hand in Asia while the rest of Asia snickered. As a sidekick, we have been repeatedly kicked in the side. The toxic wastes left behind by the US bases and the fate of the World War II veterans are foremost reminders of it. Elsewhere, the United States routinely cleans up the mess it leaves behind and compensates people who have fought its wars, as its laws demand. Elsewhere, countries that help carry out America's mercenary wars, such as the one in Iraq, have been rewarded by being allowed to rape and pillage.

All we get is a dinner—whose bill we are bound to pick up anyway in terms of a more ardent support for Bush's next wars, a more permanent presence of US troops in this country, and a more aggressive projection of ourselves as America's lackey in Asia. GMA has shown no limits to how far she can bend.

But well beyond the visit's consequences for the OFWs in the Gulf and for this country's future dealings with America, there is its impact on the country's future itself. That visit foments the one thing that has kept this country from progressing, indeed that has kept this country regressing—we were next only to Japan in economic potential—since Independence. That is lack of national pride. No, never mind national pride, that is lack of a nation. That visit sends the same message to the nation that that batty group calling for this country to revert to the Commonwealth does to its audience. That is what it is, shorn of the rhetoric, a call for the country to go back to that state. Except that the United States won't have any of that. Dinner yes, statehood no.

The monumental irony of it is that GMA came to power because we overthrew someone we thought had all the wrong values. Someone who believed in *pakikisama, walang iwanan,* right or wrong we'll stick it out. Someone who believed in using illusion to dispel reality, myth to dispel truth, force to dispel reason, and who dragged this country to a level of ignorance and benightedness it had not known before. At least Erap practiced it only on a local scale, GMA is practicing it on a global one. She is proclaiming the wisdom of *pakikisama* with America, *walang iwanan*, we'll stick it out to the end, using the illusion of aid to dispel the reality of mendicancy, the myth of anti-terrorism to dispel the fact of servility, and coercive power of a "strong republic" to dispel the truth of her powerlessness.

There is a difference between a friend and a lackey. A friend is treated with respect, a lackey is merely treated to dinner.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com

Cojuangco for president?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE PLOT thickens in the run-up to the 2004 presidential elections. Before he flew for the United States yesterday, Sen. Edgardo Angara left a time bomb in the opposition ranks by endorsing San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo Cojuangco as candidate of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino for president.

His statement, reported in the INQUIRER (May 13), virtually launched Cojuangco's bid for the presidency. Prior to this, Cojuangco had been testing public opinion but received only lukewarm reaction. Pulse Asia's March 29-April 12, 2003, survey nailed him at the bottom, with a one-percent backing.

Whether Angara's declaration will boost the stock of Cojuangco remains to be seen. When Cojuangco ran for president in 1992, when the stigma of being a Marcos crony had a strong odor, he took third place, after Fidel Ramos and Miriam Defensor-Santiago. The stigma still lingers.

But Angara is highlighting Cojuangco's executive ability displayed in his remarkable achievement of retaking control of San Miguel, the country's 11th biggest corporation, and his expansion into agri-business in Negros Occidental.

Cojuangco's business management talent, according to Angara, is what the country needs to rebuild the economy. This demonstrated ability and leadership in business overshadow his crony association with the Marcos regime and even the controversy over the alleged misuse of the P100-billion coco fund, a project which has its roots in the cronyism of the Marcos regime.

Angara's endorsement, which puts the LDP machine in the service of Cojuangco, is a countermove against the April 29 "united opposition" meeting at Club Filipino, which endorsed Sen. Panfilo Lacson as the opposition's presidential nominee. The endorsement was a hollow gesture because the opposition, meaning those who are not with the administration, is fragmented. It is split between the Lacson camp, which has no party organization to speak of, and the Angara faction, which controls the party.

The Angara alliance with Cojuangco is therefore aimed at eliminating Lacson as a rallying point of opposition forces and building a wider coalition behind Cojuangco, possibly composed of the LDP, Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition, segments of the ruling Lakas party and the smaller parties, including the Liberal Party.

This embryonic "mega coalition" seeks not only to block Lacson but also to neutralize another crony of former President Joseph Estrada, actor Fernando Poe Jr., and to preempt the administration from forming its own coalition. Note that the reconfiguration is taking place within the opposition ranks. The high-profile presidential aspirants consist mainly of non-administration figures—for example, Raul Roco. Since President Macapagal-Arroyo withdrew from the race, the administration coalition has yet to make its own preselection. We should therefore expect the blood-letting to take place in the opposition camp for control of its nomination process.

Although political parties are weaker and more fragmented than they were in the two-party system upon which political competition was organized from 1945 to 1972, it is advantageous to have party machines, no matter how rickety. Thus, a coalition of the LDP and NPC provides a significant framework for electoral mobilization. The LDP has 22 members in the House of Representatives, and the NPC has about 50, while the ruling party, Lakas, has 84. The House majority, which props up Speaker Jose de Venecia, rests on the coalition of Lakas and the NPC.

About 50 Lakas members have indicated support for a Cojuangco candidacy. Angara believes that this broad coalition, which includes Lakas congressmen, would give Cojuangco the best chances of winning the elections.

Angara, however, has glossed over a critical issue that will be raised against Cojuangco: conflict of interest. Not only is the coco levy funds case, in which small coconut farmers have a stake, still awaiting settlement, Cojuangco controls one of the biggest business conglomerates in the country. His election to the presidency will concentrate in his hands enormous economic power to give him an advantage over competitors and can intimidate the entire business community. The fusion of political and economic power promotes monopolistic tendencies and is the antithesis of democratization of business and even politics.

Cojuangco represents an autocratic culture in business management and leadership. Nowhere is this better demonstrated than in the transformation of Cojuangco's vast sugar plantation in Pontevedra, Negros Occidental, into an agri-business estate where farmers have been incorporated into a land reform format in which they receive incomes but have little say in the decision-making of the enterprise. Cojuangco would probably be the epitome of the autocratic model of democratic leadership exemplified not by Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore but by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy.

The conflict-of-interest issue against Berlusconi stems from his control of a business empire composed of three television stations, a major publishing house, interests in retail business, insurance companies in his Finivest group, and in a football team. According to Alan Long, in an article disseminated in a website, Berlusconi "had so permeated Italian life that a new term, 'Berlusconism,' entered the Italian vocabulary, meaning a way of life where people live in houses built by Berlusconi, relax on tennis courts and in restaurants built by Berlusconi, and adore a soccer team bought by Berlusconi." By 1981, he had cornered 45 percent of the audience and 60 percent of the advertising revenue. He has not hesitated to use his control over the media to his own political advantage.

SARS is a 'collective responsibility'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN MANY companies nowadays, any employee returning from abroad is required to undergo a 10- to 14-day quarantine before returning to the workplace. The son of a good friend, after finishing a training course in the Netherlands, passed by the United States, then returned home. This would not have presented a problem if he hadn't been booked on Cathay Pacific and made a stopover in Hong Kong. As a result, he had to be quarantined for two weeks before he could report for work.

In San Miguel Corp., where my husband works, employees are required to undergo regular temperature checks at least once a week. Employees in sales, health services and other jobs "that require frequent contact with people outside SMC facilities," have been issued N95 masks for use during office hours and in public places. Guests visiting major plants and facilities are also required to undergo body temperature checks and are issued masks as well. All the restrooms at the SMC headquarters and plants are also equipped with hand wash solution, rubbing alcohol and disinfectant spray.

"As a food and beverage company with a number of plants located in SARS-affected countries, including Hong Kong, China and Vietnam, we want to take all necessary precautions to protect our employees and their families," explains Dr. Reynaldo Mariano, lead doctor and infectious diseases specialist of SMC's Corporate Health Services. "Issuing masks to our frontliners and monitoring the health of our employees are the responsible thing to do until we can determine that the virus is no longer a threat."

San Miguel is not alone. Only time and science can tell if the measures being adopted to contain the threat of SARS infection are reasonable, overblown or woefully inadequate. Meantime, everyone is deciding to err on the side of caution.

* * *

"THE RISK is low but real," is how Dr. Alex Tuazon of Unilab assesses the SARS threat in the country. "But (a SARS outbreak) can happen anytime, so we are in the process of scenario-building, plotting our responses to a best-case and worst-case scenario."

When news of SARS first reached the country, the private sector sought to respond to the threat individually, each company coming up with its own policies and programs, though many were similar. But Carlos Ejercito, Unilab president and chief operating officer, thought SARS was too big a problem to be addressed haphazardly and singly. "He tried to imagine a scenario where one employee is found to be showing symptoms of SARS," mentions Manolo Escueta, corporate affairs officer of Unilab. "Who will bring that employee to the hospital? And what would the company do with all the other employees in contact with that one SARS victim? Would the company have quarantine facilities big enough to accommodate their number?"

Since Ejercito didn't know the answers, "he wondered how other companies were formulating answers to the same questions. He thought that if other CEOs shared the same concerns, then they should share information and resources," adds Escueta.

* * *

SO this is how the "Coalition against SARS" was born. "It's not a very good name," concedes Bert Pasquin of San Miguel's Corporate Affairs Office, when I comment that it sounds like they're waging war. Still, by whatever name, this private sector alliance is rapidly gaining support and membership.

Present at the organizational meeting convened by Unilab last April 29 were representatives of the Aboitiz Group, Ayala Land, Bank of the Philippine Islands, San Miguel Corp. and Smart and PLDT. Subsequently, Globe Telecom, Nissin Monde Corp., Asian Terminals and I-Bank joined the "coalition."

Foremost among the concerns of the corporations was first, protecting the health of their employees (and by extension, of the people they do business with), and second, "continuity of business operations," ensuring that their businesses would not grind to a halt in case of a SARS outbreak. Unilab vice president Rhais Gamboa (a former health undersecretary) paints the scenario starkly: "If an employee in the production line comes down with SARS, would we have to shut down the entire factory and put it under quarantine?"

Such a scenario is not too far-fetched. The impact of SARS on the economies in the region is still being assessed, but we need only look at the empty streets, the deserted malls and abandoned restaurants in, say, Hong Kong, to realize how fear and ignorance can spook markets in record time.

* * *

ONE of the earliest decisions made by the companies in the anti-SARS coalition is to take what Escueta calls "collective responsibility" for containing the potential spread of SARS in this country. So it was not enough for them to merely network among each other. They realized they needed to work closely with other sectors, too, most notably the government.

"The DOH is doing its best," says Dr. Tuazon, when I ask how effective the government has been in addressing the SARS problem. "But the system might be pushed beyond its capacity" if the country experiences an upsurge of SARS infections.

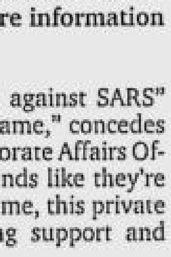
Since forming their "coalition," the member-companies have decided to support the DOH's anti-SARS efforts by, first, offering to set up and operate a SARS hotline, since Health Secretary Manolet Dayrit had said just fielding calls from a concerned public was taking too much of their personnel's time. The hotline is set for launch on May 19.

And to help the DOH gather information and updates from around the country much more efficiently and quickly, the companies have also offered the use of their communication facilities.

(More tomorrow)

Mabini's reflections in exile

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

SOLITUDE does different things to different people. For most, it is a time for introspection, a time to see things in a new light, to notice people and things we ignore due to our busy schedules. However, solitude can be scary for those who have gotten so used to the external noise of everyday life that they have forgotten to appreciate a stillness within.

On the third week of a six-month research fellowship, friends are concerned that I will be bored. These days, aside from my reading and writing, I worry about things like finding a bottle of *patis* in Japan. I notice everything, from the way the Japanese walk and dress to the type of food they eat or the preferred color for their hair. Solitude has sharpened my senses such that I can tell the time from the train that passes by my window, or the horse that neighs in the nearby hill, and the dog that howls every morning at nine.

Exile in Guam forced solitude on Apolinario Mabini and I now understand how he could write down the entire "Florante at Laura" from memory. One wishes that he had spent more time writing about his reflections on the past and his hopes for the future. I have read his correspondence thrice and only now did I notice his reflections on a busted coil spring. He wrote his brother Agapito on June 18, 1901:

"A few days ago, the coil spring of my watch broke. I wish you could buy me a new one, and as a sample, I am sending you a piece of the broken spring, because Roskoff watches have special springs. Try to choose one which is really new and strong, and, to be very sure, ask our friend Bunda or *compadre* [Honorata Agrava] to accompany you. We live on an island lost in the immensity of the ocean and I would like that the coil spring that you would send me would last at least as long as my feeble and miserable existence lasts. Having a watch one feels that the hours are slipping away and if the fleeting time saddens those who are happy; on the other hand, it comforts one who suffers, because it reminds him that sufferings pass away in the manner joys and greatness in this world have to pass. Wrap the coil spring in thin paper, placing it afterwards in an envelope that you will seal very well, and then register in the post office."

Earlier, on May 24, 1902, Mabini sent detailed instructions to his brother Alejandro on how to wrap a package of tobacco for Prudencio Mabini who had accompanied his brother during his exile in Guam:

"There is nothing I can say about this island for I have not seen any of it beyond the extension visible to my eyes from the windows of the prison. I can say, however, that the prime commodities are scarce here and costly. Only the flies and the rains are abundant, two things we do not lack. Kuya wishes that you send him some pounds of good *picadura* because the tobacco here is tasteless. With willingness and a little money, you can accomplish this request very easily.

"Buy a few packages of a pound each, place the packages on top of one another, bind them with *leteng* interlaced on all sides in the manner of a net, paste on top of the parcel a piece of paper with the address written on it in bold and clear letters, and then take it to the post office to place on it the stamps corresponding to its weight. If, in addition, you have the good idea of registering the parcel, you have nothing more to worry about because, so far, only very few parcels addressed to the prisoners have been lost."

When I first read this, I thought Mabini was obsessive-compulsive but now I realize the effect exile and boredom had on him. Unlike Jose Rizal's letters that are full of details of human interest, Mabini's letters are cold and legal except those written from exile. More reflections from the letter of May 24, 1902:

"...Paralysis does not matter anymore to me—one who is disappointed with the world and has drunk to the dregs the bitterness of real life. I wish nothing more than to be able to fall into eternal sleep, with the satisfaction of not having left behind a hateful memory...

"Our life here runs quietly and monotonously, without great joys or anxieties, which is, of course, only natural in a prison. We try to comfort ourselves of the thought that each situation in life has its sorrows and that there are many other persons more weighted down with sufferings than we are. One of our worries is the question of food. We are given plenty of flour, rice, coffee and sugar of good quality for which we are very grateful; but from the time of our arrival here we have been fed on canned meat and canned tomatoes of which we are not only fed up but sick as well. Since last November I could no longer take canned meat, because it gives me nausea and makes me vomit, an ailment which I cannot attribute to my weak and sickly constitution, because the same thing happens to my companions even to the most robust of them..."

The prisoners were later allowed to leave prison and get fresh food from Agana that improved their health. Mabini was even invited, twice, by an American government official to leave his cell and visit town, all expenses paid, but he declined, finding "it so oppressive to me to live at the expense of a stranger." Exile would have broken a lesser man, but Mabini despite his ailments remained both humble and proud to the end.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

An active life

HIGH BLOOD

Antonio A. Moran

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

SINCE my automatic retirement from the government service, I have already completed a full decade of active life. That's right, I am still busy as the proverbial bumblebee!

Barely six months into my retirement, I was back in college, teaching. I found the job quite challenging but enjoyable.

A year or so later, I topped the barangay elections for council members. Although I no longer serve in the council, I am still actively involved in the affairs and activities of our barangay.

My second government career started in June 1995 when our mayor took me in as his private secretary. The job is co-terminus with his, and I still hold it to this day. It is here where I got a first-hand experience in local governance, including the immense and numerous problems local chief executives face.

Scores of people come to the office of the mayor to transact business. Some come with different tales of woe, some of them sad and true, others laughably absurd. Requests for help include money to buy a coffin for a dead member of the family, medicines for the sick, for transportation or school tuition, a kilo or two of rice, even second-hand clothing. On several occasions, our poor mayor would go home at the end of the day with his pockets—and his stomach—empty.

I have also witnessed some dramas, both comic and tragic. One early morning, a distraught, young mother came with her brood of three, cuddling her nursing infant. She had been abandoned by her husband, she tearfully related, and had since then been reduced to begging in order to survive. She would not leave the office until the mayor forked out P100.

For our mayor, officiating at a civil marriage is always an occasion for levity. After the ceremony, he would tell the groom to kiss his blushing bride or else he would not sign their marriage certificate.

To help me do a better job, I have acquired more than a dozen books on local government. The most indispensable of these is the Local Government Code. This is the bible that I consult whenever clients come to the office for advice or suggestions on possible solutions to their problems.

I have learned to draft resolutions and ordinances which the mayor sends to the Sangguniang Bayan for consideration. I write all kinds of communication, affidavits, office memoranda, executive orders, complaints, messages, etc. This type of office work provides excellent stimulation for my mind and keep it from early degeneration.

Whenever the mayor is out of town on official business, I am designated as the officer in charge. In this capacity, I can act on routine matters and represent the mayor in conferences, workshops, seminars and school programs and activities.

Outside of my official duties, I attend to other concerns like school projects of the PTA. Being a billiards buff, I have organized and overseen billiards tournaments for the young and the elderly in our town. And when I can find the time and the weather is fine, I go out and seek out my former co-workers and schoolmates to reinvigorate our old friendship.

Except for the monkey on my arthritic right foot, I am still full of zip and zest at my age. My senses remain healthy and unimpaired, thank the good Lord. That's probably because I am never idle during my waking hours. It is having nothing important and useful to do that puts me in the doldrums.

To some people, retirement from either the public service or private employment means a period of rest and relaxation. That may be true. But to others like me, it is to re-tire or put on fresh energy and enthusiasm in order to extend our lease on life.

Antonio A. Moran, 75, lives and works in Camalig, Albay.

A friend to all

Virgilio C. Abejo

I RETIRED as government corporate counsel on Friday, July 10, 1998, at the age of 60. Being a career executive service officer (Ceso, rank II), I was appointed three days later as presidential assistant on government corporations, a position I held for exactly three years. Then on Aug. 1, 2001, I was hired as a consultant at the House of Representatives, and on Nov. 1 that same year also as a consultant at the Department of Finance, and I continue serving in both jobs.

I have not stopped working. I find no reason to stop. I am already enjoying my retirement and my present jobs keep me physically strong, mentally alert and in constant touch with people. By God's grace, I am healthy, with a blood pressure of 130/80 and my blood sugar on a safe level. I enjoy the usual activities of a senior citizen, like malling on free days and occasionally feasting on smorgasbord at popular prices. I regularly travel with my wife and three daughters, and last year our family vacation took us to Austria, Russia, Ireland and England at promotional air fares.

I take delight in the most common things. Upon waking up, I am greeted by the cheerful chorus of birds at my window. Simultaneously, I smell the fragrance of ilang-ilang from the tree I planted several years ago even as I look at the delicate flowers of the adjoining neem tree whose leaves sway as the birds fly from branch to twig to everywhere.

Some quiet moments in prayer prepare me for the day ahead. My early morning walk through our unpolluted subdivision streets allows me a clear view of a variety of wild flowers thriving among drying grass this time of year. Soon, more colorful bougainvilleas, the cascading golden showers, the bright orange buds of the African tulip tree, the gleaming flame tree blossoms and violet banaba flowers will line the streets on my way to work.

The pleasant winds of March make my heart dance, with fond memories of Frank Sinatra ("These Foolish Things Remind Me of You"). Even the sudden showers in April are welcome because they bring flowers in May for little girls' bouquets (Pat Boone's "April Love," this time), as they sing "Ave Maria" during the "Flores de Mayo."

You might have guessed it. I was born on the first of May, and birds and flowers and songs of my younger years bring happy memories to me and encourage me to go on living and to be a friend to all I meet. That is why I am already savoring my retirement years even as I am still working.

Trust in God and enjoy the birds and the flowers and the music. And maybe, like me, you will not have to wait for your retirement to appreciate God's abundant blessings all around us.

Charter amendments should come after 2004 polls

LOCAL and national elective officials who will support Charter change that would defer or cancel the May 2004 elections and extend their terms without the mandate of the electorate can be likened to the barangay officials who were elected in the May 1994 barangay elections who also tried to extend their terms. These barangay officials were elected pursuant to Section 43(c) of RA 7160, the Local Government Code of 1991, which fixed their term of office for three years or until May 1997. But when the Commission on Elections scheduled the May 1997 barangay elections, the officials, through their Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas, filed a petition before the Supreme Court to declare as unconstitutional this provision of RA 7160. They claimed that they were not covered by RA 7160 but by the former barangay law, RA 6679, which governed the May 1989 barangay elections wherein the term of office of barangay officials was fixed for five years. In other words, when their term of office was due to expire in May 1997 under RA 7160, they made that "dubious claim" to a longer term of office under RA 6679.

However, the Supreme Court rebuffed their pompous demand. In a sterling decision penned by Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, the Court held that the barangay officials had "no moral ascendancy for their dubious claim to a longer term of office (and) are stopped from asking for any term other than that which they ran for and were elected to, under the law governing their very claim to such offices, namely, RA 7160."

Embedded in Panganiban's scholarly decision was an epilogue, a portion of which could be addressed to the sense of *delicadeza* of our elective officials before they consider any proposal to amend the Constitution that would extend their term of office without election. Panganiban said, "Reason and common sense reject them. Equity and morality abhor them. They are subtle but nonetheless self-serving propositions to lengthen governance without mandate from the governed. In a democracy, elected leaders can legally and morally justify their reign only by obtaining the voluntary consent of the electorate. In this case, however, petitioners propose to extend their terms not by seeking the people's vote but by faulty argumentation. This Court cannot and will not grant its imprimatur to such untenable proposition. If they want to continue serving, they must get a new mandate in the elections scheduled (in May 2004)."

In other words, our lawmakers should not be allowed to tinker with the Constitution in a way that would set aside or cancel the constitutionally mandated synchronized elections in May 2004. Should there be any amendment to our Constitution, it should be made after the elections to prevent the anomaly of extending the term of office of local and national officials without the "voluntary consent of the electorate."

—ROMULO B. MACALINTAL,
13 Cagayan Valley St.,
Philamlife Village, Pamplona,
Las Piñas City

GMOs are like SARS

GENETICALLY-MODIFIED organisms (GMOs) are to the environment what the SARS virus is to the human body. They are both newly formed genetic entities that contaminate the environment or body and cause immediate and/or long-term dangers and damage.

SARS has been found to be caused by a genetically altered common cold Corona virus. Its persistence and communicability have wreaked worldwide havoc. Ominously, it has easily mutated as it spreads through different populations.

Similarly, GMOs are genetically altered entities which in the form of crops like Bt corn cause havoc in the environment and on animals that consume them. GMOs have been shown to contaminate normal crops, create super weeds, kill beneficial insects, cause health problems in animals and may, in the long term, alter our relatively small and vulnerable ecosystems.

The Department of Agriculture has failed the country by putting in harm's way our environment, our economy and health by its failure to stop the contamination of our agricultural lands with these SARS-like organisms.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's and Secretary Cito Lorenzo's bitter legacy to the Filipino will be a Philippine environment contaminated by GMOs.

—ROMEL GUTIERREZ,
San Francisco Gardens
Condominiums,
Mandaluyong City

What day is Mother's Day?

THIS has reference to recent announcements and advertisements appearing in newspapers about the celebration of Mother's Day on May 11, 2003.

May I respectfully request information if Proclamation No. 58, series of 1998, has been revoked or suspended. This proclamation declared the first Monday of December every year as Mother's Day and Father's Day.

—FRANCISCO T. SAN MIGUEL
Paraiso, Barangay Maybangkal
Morong, Rizal

Despite Proclamation No. 58, issued by President Estrada which designates the first Monday of December as Mother's Day and Father's Day, Mother's Day continues to be celebrated on the second Sunday of May. The proclamations are there but habits die hard.—**Ed.**

Charter change

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

IT is very clear that the problem of terrorists in Mindanao cannot be solved by our own military personnel alone. US troops are willing to do the job for us but they are prohibited from engaging subversive elements in Mindanao and around the country by our Constitution. Therefore, I propose: change the Constitution now!

That way, American troops can finish the job our ill-equipped military cannot do! As simple as that! But not so simple when our very own members of Congress and government personnel would rather debate the legality or illegality of US participation in solving our very pressing problems in Mindanao. Our inutile members of the government would rather see dead bodies around the country and Mindanao rather than see the problems solved! What a shame!—**cerebro**

* * *

There's no need to change the Constitution to allow foreign troops in the Philippines. The government just officially declares the Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels as terrorists with al-Qaida ties, and then the United States has the reason to invade Mindanao. US President George Bush's war on global terrorism has no boundaries.—**Kelly B**

* * *

Speaker Jose de Venecia and the rest of the gang have a hidden agenda. The Constitution can be amended if needed—there is a framework for this. However, to work for wholesale change gives De Venecia and his gang a free hand at the expense of the Filipino people. He can be the next legal dictator supported legally by a new constitution of his making.

Latin America is also using the parliamentary system. How are they doing? Look at President Chaves of Columbia. Look at Argentina. The whole place experienced hyperinflation before while we barely escaped it by booting out Marcos and his parliamentary system.

Latin America also experiences boom-bust economic cycles like us. These are the models that are waiting for those who are pro-parliamentary system in a Third World country. The United Kingdom or European models do not apply because they are of the First World and they have already outgrown their growing pains in which two world wars were fought. I'm afraid if we have a parliamentary system, words such as *"atin-atin"* and "weather-weather" will really come to fruition in its nastiest form.—**langam**

* * *

Will Charter change eliminate the secessionist problem in Mindanao and the Communist Party of the Philippines' wish to take over the government? Will it permanently cut the umbilical cord that connects the peso to the US dollar? With a new Constitution, can the new government be able to recall overseas Filipino workers with the chance to earn a decent remuneration as local employees? Will it be able to entice more foreign investors, considering that a prime minister can be removed from office at the drop of a hat anytime the parliamentarians choose to change sides?

From the way it looks, the only favorable thing that may happen is that it eliminates the fixed term of the prime minister as long as he or she blindly satisfies the needs of the majority of parliamentarians under his or her party's control.—**joedee**

* * *

These changes would be nice:

1. Three- or four-year term with two-term limit for presidents.
2. Senators from their own respective districts so that there will be more representatives from across the nation.—**skamania13**

* * *

If Filipinos are not willing to shed blood in overthrowing the entrenched order in their homeland, then small revolutions through legislation are the next option. The Constitution must be constantly amended for it to evolve to form a better republic. Of course, the people have to be consulted, for they are the governed, from whom government officials derive their authority to rule.—**KaFerdi**

* * *

The continuing deadlock and pussyfooting of our senators to effect constitutional change are their last hope of clinging to power.

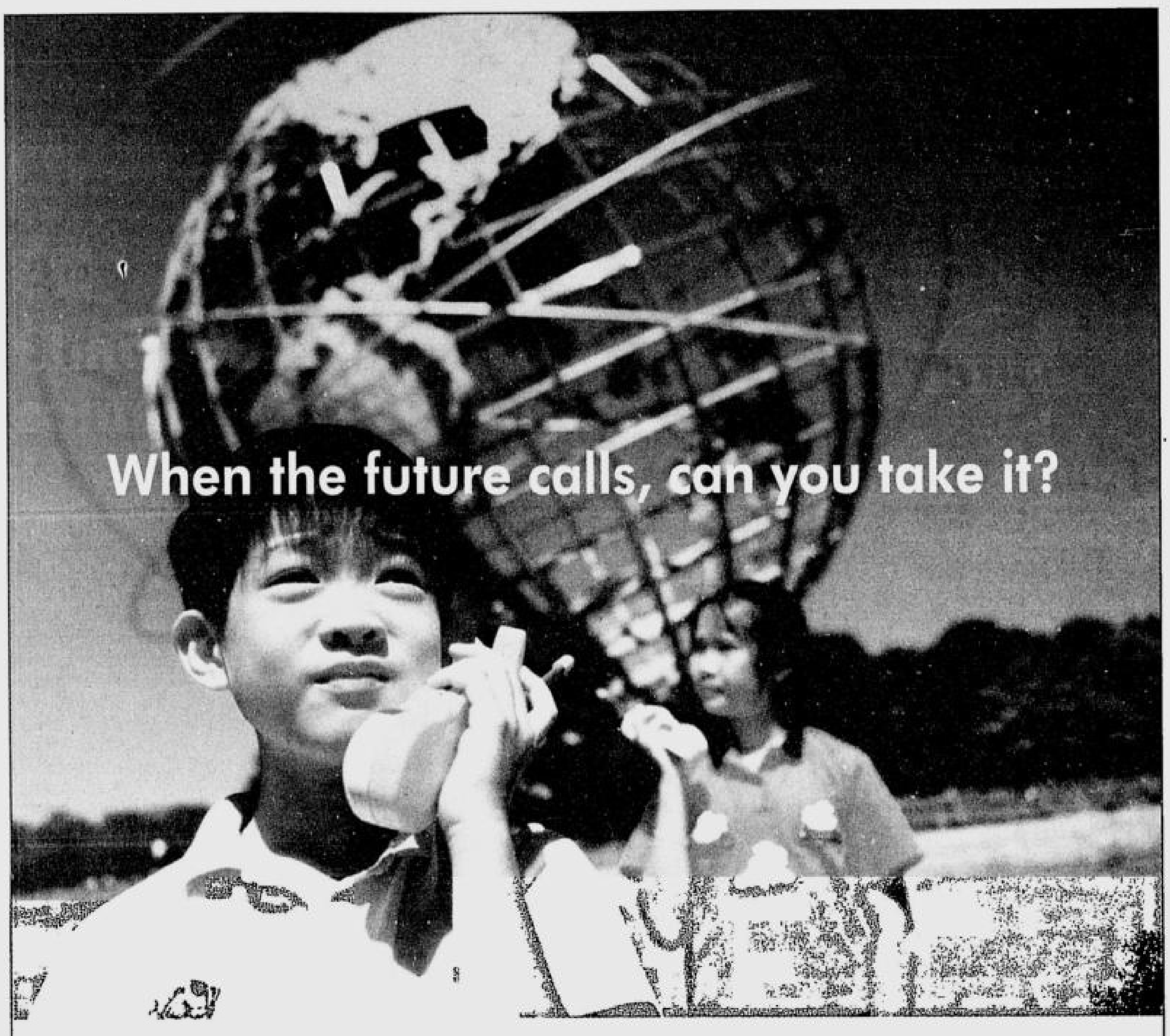
Their days are numbered, so any day that prolongs their execution is another day in paradise lost.

I am extremely embarrassed to read Sabio's opinion on this matter. This paper gave Sabio a de facto legitimacy for his old world opinion.

There is only one way to amend the Constitution: call up a constitutional convention. That is the will of the people.—**kulas**

* * *

Charter change is like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. While the terrorists, both local and foreign, are moving into the southern region and the Armed Forces does not have sufficient funds and modern weapons to control the borders, traditional politicians and other entertainers are focused on Charter change. Do you wonder why eight million Filipinos have left the Philippines and millions more would like to leave if they had visas, and the Muslims do not consider themselves to be Filipinos? Can you blame anyone for not wanting to be a Filipino citizen?—**sulung**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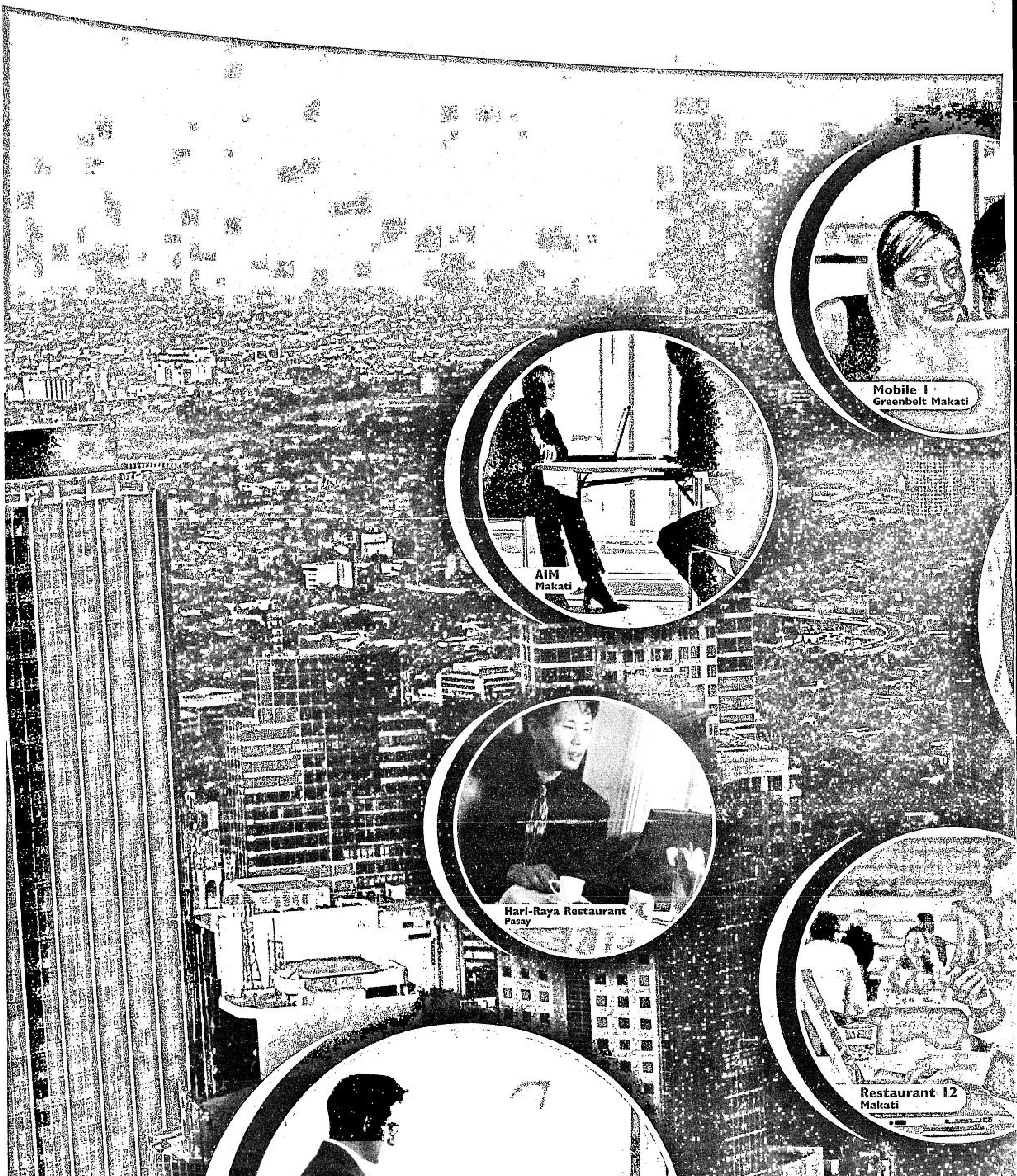
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

16 killed in new Chechnya bombing

VLADIKAVKAZ, Russia—A woman with explosives strapped to her waist blew them up in the midst of thousands of Muslim pilgrims, killing herself and at least 15 others in an apparent attempt on the life of Chechnya's Moscow-backed administrator.

Chechen administrator Akhmad Kadyrov escaped unharmed but two of his bodyguards were injured in Wednesday's suicide bombing, said Maj. Gen. Ruslan Avtayev, head of the Ministry of Emergency Situations in Chechnya. The ITAR-Tass news agency reported that five of Kadyrov's bodyguards were killed.

In all, 16 people were killed, including two who died in a hospital overnight, Avtayev said. The attack wounded 143 people, of whom 43 were in grave condition, he said.

Russian state television reported that 26 had been killed and TVS said the toll was 30. It was not possible to immediately reconcile the conflicting numbers.

The attack in Iliskhan-Yurt, a village about 25 km southeast of the capital, Grozny, appeared to have been an attempt on the life of Kadyrov, who is hated by rebels for his cooperation with Moscow.

Authorities identified the attacker as a 46-year-old widow whose husband allegedly was shot to death in 1999, said Chechen prosecutor Vladimir Kravchenko. A second attacker died before being able to detonate her explosives, Russia's state-controlled Channel One said.

The attack came just days after three suicide bombers detonated a truck laden with explosives outside a government compound in northern Chechnya, killing 59. Immediately afterward, Kadyrov criticized the lax security in the republic, and urged federal forces to turn over their responsibilities for hunting rebels to Chechen security agencies.

The two attacks highlight the violence that continues in Chechnya, despite Kremlin claims that the small southern republic is stabilizing and on the path to peace.

"These terror attacks in Chechnya will not thwart the efforts of the Russian leadership to reach a political settlement in Chechnya," Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said Wednesday, standing alongside visiting US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The Kremlin has tried to portray its 3 1/2-year-old war in Chechnya as part of the international campaign against terror, and has accused foreign terrorist groups of funding attacks and training.

In Wednesday's attack, the suicide bombers approached Kadyrov shortly after he finished a prayer service for a crowd of about 10,000 at a religious ceremony on a grassy hillside in Iliskhan-Yurt, a spot considered sacred to Caucasus Mountain Muslims as the birthplace of three respected 19th century sheiks and the possible burial site of a descendent of Prophet Muhammad. *AP*

15 Saudis carried out bombings, Riyadh says

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia vowed to clamp down on terror and the United States to cut its diplomatic presence in the kingdom Wednesday after dozens died in triple suicide bombings Riyadh said were carried out by 15 Saudis.

With Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida movement held responsible, Saudi newspapers urged the government to treat May 12, the day of the attacks, as the United States treated Sept. 11, 2001.

The similarity between the two outrages was highlighted by Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal, who said Monday night's bombings against expatriate residential compounds had been carried out by the same number of assailants as those who attacked Washington and New York.

"Fifteen Saudis did what they did in the attacks in the United States and 15 Saudis did the attacks here," he told a press conference, referring to 15 out of 19 suicide hijackers who carried out the attacks against the United States.

194 wounded

The Riyadh bombings killed at least 34 people, including seven Americans and nine bombers, and wounded 194 others, according to the latest toll from the Saudi interior ministry.

A dispatch by the official SPA news agency on the funerals for the victims Wednesday named a member of the Saudi National Guard and another from the Saudi Air Force among those killed.

Prince Saud declined to provide details about the fate of the six attackers not mentioned in the interior ministry's breakdown of the fatalities.

Two senior State Department officials said Wednesday eight US citizens were killed in the blasts.

Prince Saud said he hoped "accusations in the United States about the responsibility of Saudi Arabia in the 9/11 tragedy will cease," adding that "nobody can hold us responsible for attacking our country."

He reiterated the kingdom's resolve to fight terror.

"International terrorism is threatening the security of all of us. We must coordinate efforts... to fight against terrorism in all its shapes and forms.

"The kingdom is committed to playing its role in this connection, and to strike with an iron fist all those who may try to threaten the country's security," he said.

"The perpetrators will receive the punishment they deserve."

The US Embassy in Riyadh and consulates general in Dhahran and Jeddah were closed Wednesday for the second day running amid high tension and shock among the seven-million-strong expatriate community.

Conflicting tolls

Saudi Arabia offered no explanation for conflicting death tolls after the interior ministry revised its figures upwards to 34 dead.

That added five more to a previous Saudi toll—one Briton, one Irish national, an Australian of Lebanese origin, a third Filipino and one unidentified corpse.

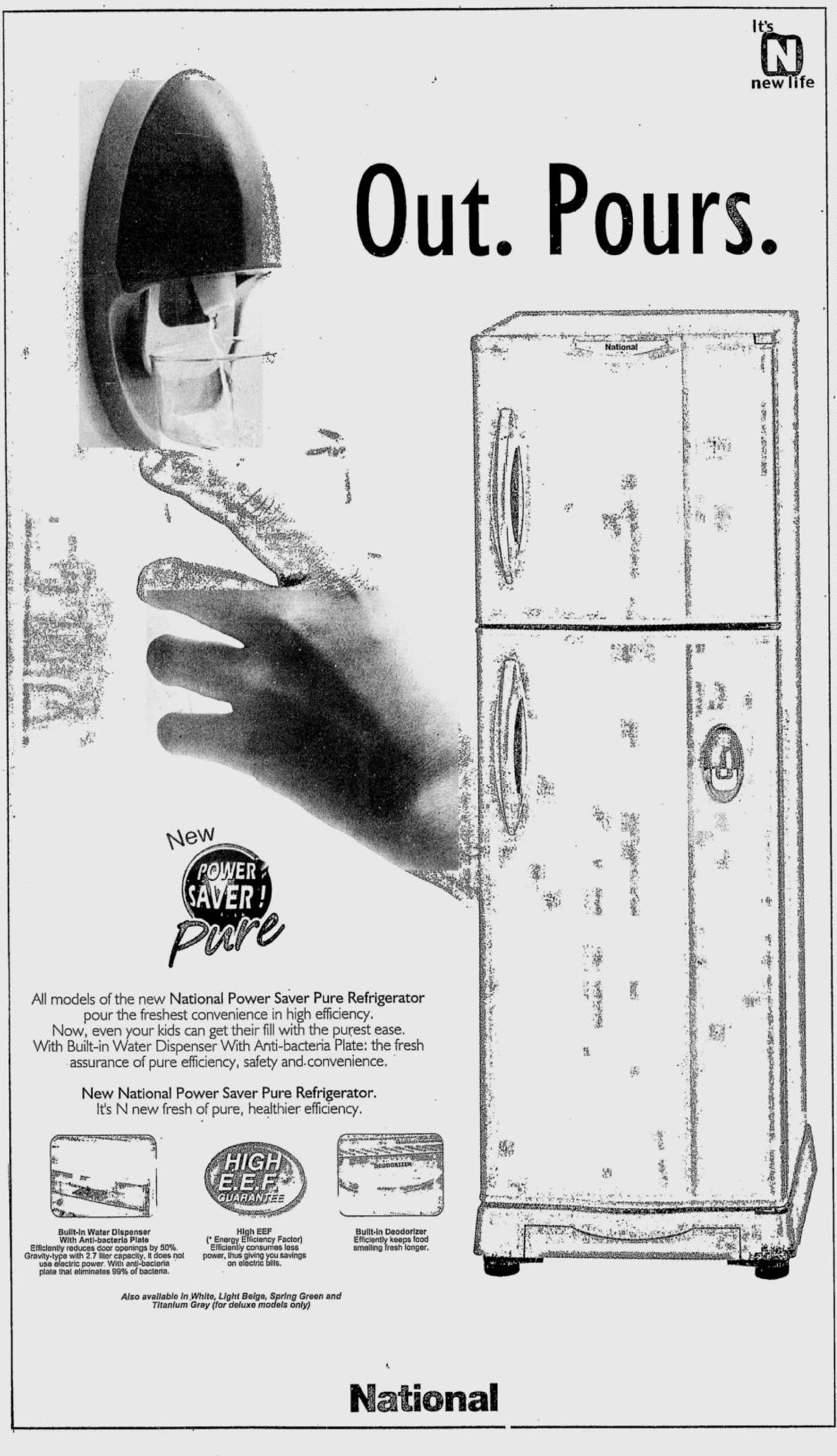
In Washington, State Department officials contradicted themselves, giving as many as 50 dead after announcing a preliminary toll of 91, which Vice President Dick Cheney cited. Up to 12 Americans had died, they said.

The interior ministry here had Tuesday set the total at 29 killed as well as 194 wounded in the attacks.

It listed the dead as seven Saudis, seven Americans, two Jordanian children, two Filipinos, a Lebanese and a Swiss, in addition to the nine charred bodies believed to be the attackers.

The ministry made no mention Wednesday of three Jordanian adults who died in the blasts along with the two children, according to the Amman government, which said it was sending a plane to Riyadh to bring all five bodies home.

Up to eight British nationals remained "unaccounted for" Wednesday, the British Embassy said. *AFP*



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China may execute SARS quarantine violators, spreaders

BEIJING—China threatened to execute anyone who causes death or injury by deliberately spreading SARS, as officials on Thursday promised more doctors, hospitals and money to fight the flu-like virus in rural areas.

The warning by China's Supreme Court, reported by the official Xinhua News Agency, appeared to be an effort to force compliance with quarantines and other restrictions. It cited existing laws, many of which include a possible death penalty for even nonviolent offenses, though it often isn't imposed.

The announcement came as Chinese officials were trying to block severe acute respiratory syndrome from spreading to the countryside, which is home to many of China's 1.3 billion people.

China yesterday reported four more SARS deaths and 52 new cases, the lowest since the government admitted covering up the epidemic on April 20, the health ministry said.

It takes the nationwide death toll to 271 and the cumulative number of cases to 5,163.

The fatalities were in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and Inner Mongolia.

Of the new cases 27 were in the Chinese capital. The rest were in Shanxi (seven), Inner Mongolia (four), Tianjin (three), Guangdong (three) and Jilin (two).

Beijing now has 140 dead and 2,388 confirmed cases.

Rural areas account for only 155 of its 5,163 SARS cases, said officials from the health and finance ministries. But they called for stepped up efforts to shield rural villages, especially by keeping migrant workers from carrying the virus in from cities.

"We haven't seen a major spread into the countryside, but we can't tell whether that might change in future," Qi Xiaoqiu, director of the Heath Ministry's Department of Disease Control, said at a news conference.

The Supreme Court warning says people who violate quarantines and spread the virus can be imprisoned for up to seven years, Xinhua said. It said those who cause death or serious injury by "deliberately spreading" the virus can be sentenced to prison terms of 10 years to life or might be executed.

Chinese authorities frequently threaten harsh punishments including possible execution during emergencies.

While numbers of new SARS cases are falling in cities, officials and the World Health Organization are warning that the outbreak could spread to the countryside.

A statement distributed by Qi and other officials at the news conference said health care in the countryside is inadequate.

"We must enhance our efforts to put SARS under control in order to contain its spread and eliminate any hidden perils," the statement said.

Most of China's 100 million migrant workers have remained at their city jobs, and health officials are monitoring 8 million migrants who have returned to their hometowns, the officials said.

Some areas are quarantining returning migrants, while teams are being organized to bring in crops so that workers don't have to return to help with the harvest, they said. *AP, AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Default win for Kirchner

BUENOS AIRES—Peronist Nestor Kirchner clinched Argentina's presidency on Wednesday after his flamboyant rival, ex-president Carlos Menem, rock bottom in polls, quit four days before a runoff election. Menem's withdrawal, which appeared likely to mark the end of his scandal-ridden political career, propelled the relatively unknown center-left Kirchner into the job of leading Latin America's No. 3 economy after nearly two years of turmoil. Under Argentine law, a runoff election is canceled if one of the two candidates withdraws. Kirchner, who led Menem by some 40 points in polls, can now be proclaimed Argentina's sixth president in 18 months. The electoral court approved Menem's withdrawal. Giving a television interview in his first public appearance since Menem's withdrawal, Kirchner vowed late on Wednesday to tackle deep poverty racking Argentina, make politics more transparent and provide strong leadership and governability. ***Reuters***

Palestinians' 'Nakba'

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinians mark the 55th anniversary on Thursday of their "Nakba" (Catastrophe), the loss of their homeland to the new state of Israel, amid a new Middle East peace drive marred by persistent bloodshed. The Palestinian leadership has accepted an international peace plan envisaging an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza—slices of British Mandate Palestine left to Arabs after a disastrous 1948 war to stop Israel's creation. But Israel, which occupied the two territories in another war 19 years later, has objected on security grounds to the so-called "road map" peace blueprint drawn up by the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations. ***Reuters***

35 die in India train fire

LUDHIANA, India—At least 35 people died after three coaches of a passenger train caught fire in the northern India state of Punjab early on Thursday, a doctor at a hospital treating victims said. The cause of the fire was not immediately known, a senior railway official said. "Thirty-five people have died in the fire. Twelve are in a critical state," Doctor S.N. Tiwari, civil surgeon at Ludhiana Hospital, said. ***Reuters***

Kidnapped tourists home

COLOGNE, Germany—Seventeen European tourists were reunited with their families in emotional scenes Wednesday after being freed from their Islamic extremist abductors deep in Algeria's Sahara desert, but there were fears for another 15 still held captive. Six Germans, 10 Austrians and one Swede were freed when Algerian troops stormed a desert hide-out of the Islamic Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), reportedly linked to the al-Qaida network, near the Sahara's largest city of Tamanrasset. ***AFP***

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Ashes of SARS victim arrive from HK

MABALACAT, Pampanga—Sealed in a Chinese porcelain jar, the ashes of CY, the second Filipino who died of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Hong Kong, have been returned here amid what health authorities called a cautious and scared public.

Dr. Oscar Aurelio, municipal health officer, confirmed the arrival of CY's ashes on Thursday. He said the shipment was approved by the Department of Health.

Aurelio said the victim's 25-year-old daughter, a resident of Hong Kong who brought the ashes to her mother's hometown, agreed to undergo a 14-day isolation starting Wednesday.

He said quarantine officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and government doctors at the DOH SARS isolation center at the Jose Lingad Memorial Hospital in Pampanga did not find symptoms of SARS in CY's daughter.

"We strictly followed the protocol on SARS check," Aurelio said, to allay the "hysteria" over the health implications of returning CY's ashes.

Aurelio said CY, 57, would be buried after her daughter had completed the quarantine period.

He said CY's four children in Hong Kong were "insistent" on burying their mother here.

He said the family had assured him that no wake would be held. He said officials in the village where CY's family lives and three adjacent villages had organized the barangay health emergency response team to address the concerns of the residents.

"Initially, they themselves were afraid to do home visits and surveillance, educate residents about SARS and train them in checking temperature. They have conquered their fears because they have been convinced they are in the frontline of the government's campaign against SARS," Aurelio said.

Village officials reported that the neighbors, while sympathetic to the family, avoided visiting the family's house.

Dr. Jean Marc Olive, World Health Organization representative to the Philippines, said the return of CY's ashes was "not a health issue" and posed no risks to public health.

Dr. Ma. Consorcia Quizon, acting director of the National Epidemiological Center, said the ashes were "completely safe" because the cremation process had extinguished the virus.

In Isabela, relatives of DI, the 80-year-old Filipino-American who was put in isolation in South Korea after he developed fever, clarified that the patient had only ordinary pneumonia, contrary to reports that he had developed symptoms of SARS.

Floro Urata, information officer of the Center for Health Development in Cagayan Valley, said DI's relatives and neighbors in San Mateo town did not develop any symptom of SARS.

"It is good no one among his relatives and neighbors has developed fever or any kind of diseases associated with SARS. That is good news, we are SARS-free," Urata said.

He said DI's close relatives had been placed under isolation and observation for three days as a "precautionary measure." *Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Signature drive vs Charter resolution launched

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Groups and individuals here have launched a signature campaign to oppose moves to hold a constituent assembly in amending the 1987 Constitution.

The signatures will be collected from schools, offices and communities.

"The people should voice out their opposition and not leave this [issue] to members of Congress," said lawyer Leopoldo Causing, a political science teacher at the West Visayas State University and author of several books on the Philippine Constitution, during a forum on Wednesday.

He urged participants of the forum to "write and speak out" their opposition to the proposal. "This is worse than SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), it will affect everyone without exception."

Causing condemned the "midnight approval" of House Concurrent Resolution No. 16 that seeks to convene Congress into a constituent assembly.

He said the rush in passing the resolution "only shows that the proposal lacks support even in the House." The resolution, passed at midnight on March 19, is being deliberated upon by the Senate committee on constitutional amendments.

Causing said he favored the holding of a constitutional convention rather than that of a constituent assembly in amending the Constitution. An assembly, he said, was only appropriate for "piecemeal or inconsequential" amendments and not for major changes like changing the form of government.

Amending the Constitution, he added, should be undertaken by persons who were not affiliated with any party and would not benefit from any changes.

Other groups opposing Charter change warned that the constituent assembly would seek to extend the term of office of elected officials and to water down the "remaining nationalist provisions" in the Constitution.

Jeffrey Celiz, chair of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Panay, said the "ultimate beneficiary (of moves to amend the Constitution) is the Macapagal administration which cannot stay in power through elections."

The proposed changes will "only worsen an already bad Constitution," he said.

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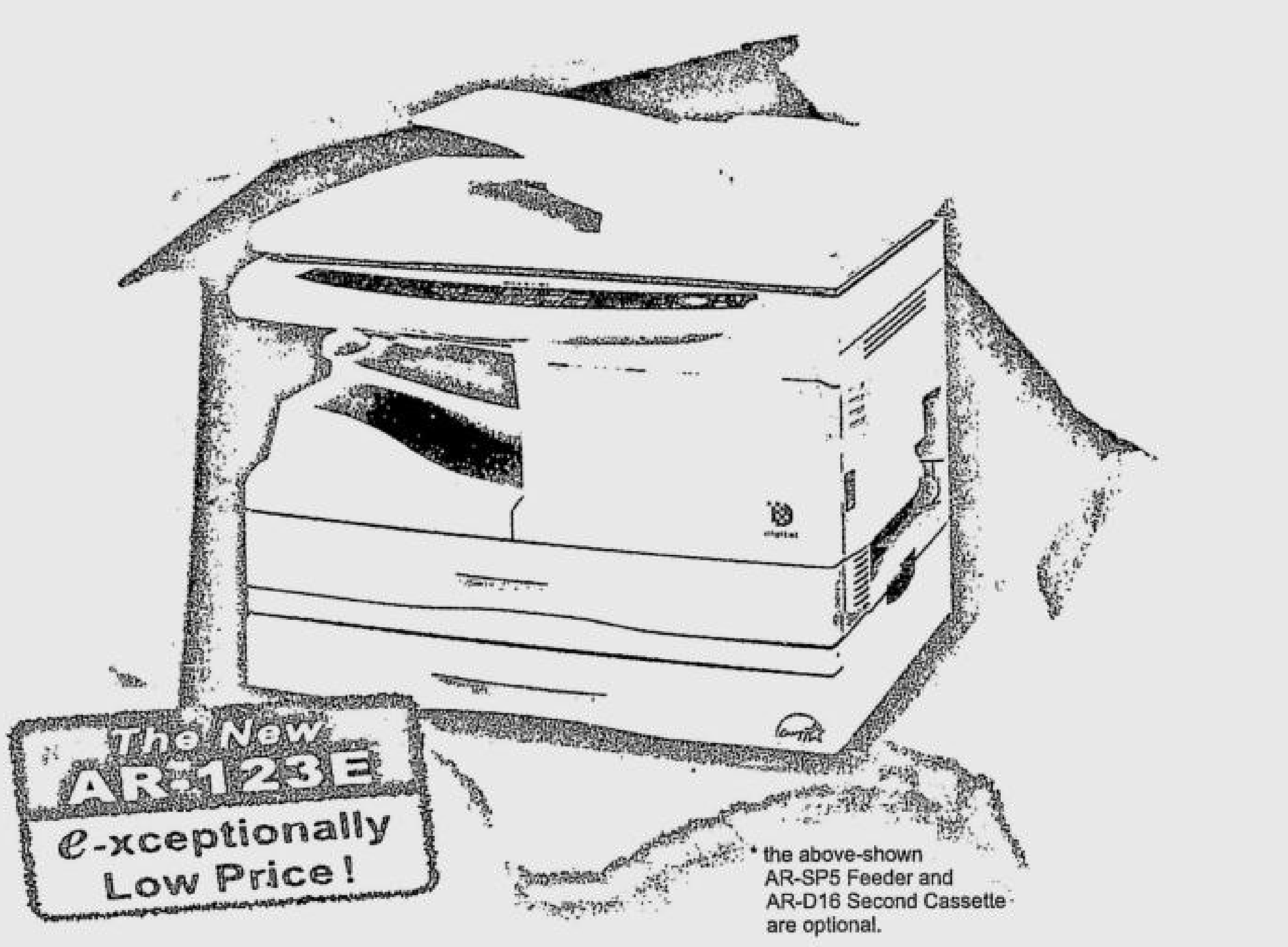

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Eaglet turned over to center

DAVAO CITY—An American-Filipino family based in Maitum town in Sarangani turned over a 2-month-old Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) to the Philippine Eagle Foundation here last week.

The PEF said the Strong family took the eaglet from a man who was trying to sell it in General Santos City.

Sam Strong said his brother James confronted the seller, identified only as Montoclot, who admitted to filching the hatchling from a nest in the forest of Barangay Upo in Maitum.

Strong said they took care of the bird for five days, feeding it with pork and beef, while trying to figure out what to do with it. They decided to hand it over to the PEF, a non-government organization involved in the propagation of the endangered species.

The 2-month-old eaglet weighs 3.3 kg.

"The Strong family is a very generous family with a long history of working on the land. They witnessed the continuous degradation of forests in Mindanao. Their act was a form of helping protect and conserve our natural resources," Dennis Salvador, PEF executive director said. *Joselle R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 368 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

ROUNDUP

Soldiers, rebs clash

DAVAO CITY—Soldiers clashed anew with communist rebels in Baganga, Davao Oriental, the military said yesterday. Col. Rodolfo Obaniana, head of the Army's 701st Infantry Brigade, said members of the 30th Special Forces Company were on combat patrol in Sitio Matanog, Barangay Binondo in Baganga when they chanced upon some 50 heavily armed New People's Army men. One soldier was wounded in the 30-minute battle. He was identified as Cpl. Rodolfo Digna.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

4 escape jail

SAN MATEO, Isabela—Four inmates at the municipal jail here escaped Sunday, police said. Insp. Albert Capiro Jr., the jail warden, said Noel Bugarin, Angel Borja, Benito Clemente and Roy Santos sawed off their cell's iron window grills while other prisoners were asleep. Bugarin was arrested in Barangay Sinamar Sur here on Tuesday after his presence was tipped off by residents to authorities. Investigators said a woman, who visited a prisoner on May 10, could have given the saw that the prisoners used.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Fireman killed

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Two motorcycle-riding men shot and killed a fireman who was on his way home in Barangay Juliana here on Monday. Supt. Elvis Diaz, acting police office chief, said Bonifacio Pelayo, 44, died before reaching the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital. Pelayo was a member of Sto. Tomas town's Bureau of Fire Protection.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Gang leader slain

STA.MARIA, Bulacan—A leader of a robbery gang operating here and in nearby towns was killed after a 20-minute gunfight with policemen. Ricardo Sibal Jr., 27, was hit in the chest and died at the Rogaciano Mercado hospital here. His companion, identified as Adrian Valderama, 24, was arrested and detained at the municipal jail. Police said Sibal's group robbed Paulino Gumapas on Sunday night while the victim was driving his jeep in Barangay Guyong here. Recovered from the suspects were two homemade .38 cal. revolvers.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Friendly fire victim

ILOILO CITY—A soldier is facing investigation for the death of an Army officer in Cuartero town in Capiz in April. Pfc. Rene Rey Ellores shot and killed 1st Lt. Bhenelin Gonzales, 27, head of the 303rd Reconnaissance Company, during a military mission on April 20 in Sitio Badiangan, Barangay Putian, Cuartero. Maj. Lyndon Sollesta, public information officer of the 3rd Infantry Division, said Ellores, who was now detained at Camp Macario Peralta in Jamindan, Capiz, had thought that the victim was an "enemy."

Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

Ati land claim

ILOILO CITY—The National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) is hopeful that the Ati of Boracay will soon have their own land on the island resort. "We see no basis (for denying) the application at this point," said Lagtum Pasag, NCIP commissioner. He noted that in the Boracay land-use plan of 1989, at least 20 hectares of land were designated as site for the Ati village. The Ati people applied for a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title on Feb. 23, 2000 to prevent their ejection from the land they have been occupying in Sitio Bolabog in Barangay Balabag.

Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

Illegal recruitment

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Commission on Human Rights in Negros Oriental is investigating a police officer for alleged involvement in an illegal recruitment ring involving minors. Jesus Canete, CHR special investigator for Negros Oriental, said SPO3 Nicolas Indico of the Ayungon police Station should explain why several minors had been locked up inside a house in his compound in Barangay Batinguel here. Indico's wife Luz runs the Lucky 5 Placement Agency, which scouts for job opportunities for domestic helpers.

Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Dayrit reports 2 new SARS cases

From page A1

try but later checked into hospitals when they developed SARS symptoms, according to Consortia Quizon, head of the National Epidemiology Center.

Quizon said the two had "very limited contacts" of between five and 10 people before they were hospitalized.

The two new SARS cases brought to 12 the total number of infections in the country. Only two persons have died of SARS: a nurse who contracted the disease in Canada where she had worked, and her father whom she had infected.

The remaining SARS cases, plus nine suspected ones, are in quarantine. According to Dayrit, there has been no transmission of the virus in the crisis.

The government has protested travel warnings to the Philippines or a ban on the entry of Filipinos in some countries, saying the SARS threat here was "negligible."

Airlines lose $10 billion

Fear of SARS has discouraged travel not only to the Philippines but to most parts of Asia as well, sending the airline industry into a tailspin.

According to Drysdale, the fallout from SARS is now expected to dwarf those of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States, the mid-1997 Asian crisis and the US war on Iraq.

"Overall, what we're seeing for the airline industry is the worst crisis that has ever hit the industry of aviation," he told the Asean forum, noting that no international carrier has been spared the fallout.

Drysdale said some Asian airlines were down to 15-20 percent of normal passenger loads at this time of the year, despite having previously reduced flight frequencies due to SARS and slowing economic activity.

"At no time in the history of aviation have we ever seen declines of the magnitude that we're now seeing in the Asian region as a result of SARS," he said. "This is a crisis of unprecedented magnitude."

Drysdale estimated global industry losses from the disease so far at $10 billion, a figure he feared could rise substantially unless the contagion is reined in soon.

"It's significantly worse than the Sept. 11 attacks and the war in Iraq," said Drysdale, who pointed out that the industry already lost $30 billion last year.

"The combined effect of Sept. 11, the war in Iraq, the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the UK, and now SARS, is just a continual series of body blows for this industry to the extent that several carriers are now suffering extensive financial damage."

Drysdale said some carriers in the less-affected areas would recover faster. "But if you're looking at countries such as carriers in Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei and other Asian carriers, we're going to see in excess of three months or even up to a year before final recovery takes place."

Drysdale said he did not see any carrier in immediate danger of going under.

"Some of the Asian carriers have for some time now fought a number of battles, not the least of which is the downturn caused by the Asian financial crisis," he said.

"As a result, the Asian carriers are now leaner, they are efficient and they are high-quality carriers. All of these will give them an underlying strength but nevertheless, the impact is enormously (affecting) their financial performance. It's impacting cash flows in particular."

Tourism-dependent economies

Aviation, health, quarantine and immigration officials from China, Japan, South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) are meeting in this special economic zone north of Manila to draw up a regional protocol for screening passengers to stop the spread of SARS.

The SARS epidemic has virtually paralyzed the tourism-dependent economies of Hong Kong and Singapore and has affected investment decisions among the region's manufacturing dynamos of China, Taiwan and others.

"Everybody has a stake in making our own countries and the world free of SARS," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a message read by Dayrit at the forum.

"The need to come up with standard airport protocols to combat this dreaded virus is a major step toward that goal and in rebuilding the level of business confidence that it has dampened," Ms Macapagal added in the address.

Health experts say SARS is the first global epidemic to be spread by jet travel, although aviation officials insist the chances of contracting the disease during flight are minimal.

Drysdale said that fears of SARS, more than the actual threat of contagion, was driving certain governments to adopt excessive measures.

Standardized rules

He said there had been only five probable cases of infection that occurred aboard commercial jets during a period when the industry transported some 250 million passengers prior to the adoption of thermal screening of passengers at airports around the world. The aviation industry carries about 1.2 billion passengers every year.

"We must have standardization. There are far too many different rules being applied by different authorities around the globe. We are seeing blanket bans being imposed which are not supported by any medical facts."

"That has got to stop. The WHO (World Health Organization) is the recognized body to be able to establish base standards," Drysdale said.

The Clark meeting followed an emergency SARS summit by Asean and China in Bangkok earlier this month where the leaders agreed to set up standardized measures for proper health screening of travelers. *Reports from AFP and AP*

Ash clouds no threat to country

From page A1

produced by Mt. Pinatubo's eruption in 1991 which darkened the skies and reached nearby countries.

Fine particles from Mt. Pinatubo reached the stratosphere, circulated around the globe and contributed to a drop in global temperature for a couple of years. The aerosols emitted by Mt. Pinatubo reflected sunlight.

"As far as weather and climate are concerned, it has no effect," Nilo said of the eruption of the volcano on Anatahan island in Northern Marianas, 322 kilometers north of Guam and about 2,500 km from Manila.

But Nilo said the ash clouds posed "potential danger" to international aviation as jet engines could suck in particles which may lead to engine trouble. The ash clouds are not visible to the naked eye.

The US Volcanic Ash Advisory Center said the ash cloud was moving west at 18 to 27 km per hour. By Wednesday morning (2100 Tuesday GMT) its leading edge was 300 km east of Luzon.

A state of emergency was declared in the Northern Mariana Islands on Wednesday as the erupting volcano appeared to gain strength. The volcano on Anatahan erupted Saturday without warning.

Anatahan is a 33-square km island, 128 km north of the Marianas capital of Saipan. It is around 2,250 km south of Tokyo. There was no one on the island at the time of the eruption.

"Due to the volcanic activity on Anatahan, volcanic ash and high level plume are ongoing in the area, presenting a continuing threat of adverse impact in the waters and air space around Anatahan," Gov. Juan Babauta said in declaring the state of emergency.

"The islands of Saipan, Tinian and Aguigan may also experience effects from the ash and plume," he said.

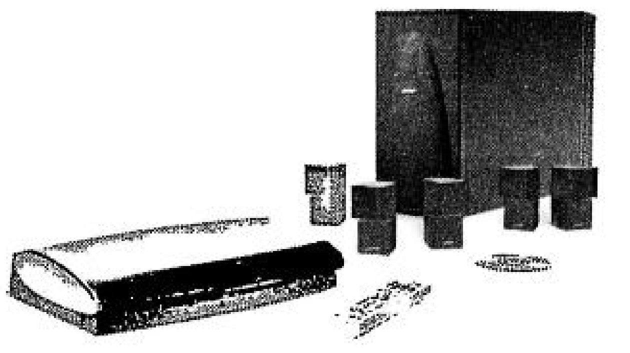
Babauta said the absence of lava in the eruption might signal future activity. "There was no lava. Is this normal for a volcanic eruption?" he said.

Babauta said Anatahan was unsafe for human habitation. His declaration further restricts all travel to the island by air or sea.

Northern Islands mayor Valentin Taisakan said the declaration was the "necessary thing to do" as it would allow planning and preparation for scientific and government missions to the island.

The mayor's office believes the eruption may have killed many of the 5,000 feral goats and more than 2,000 wild pigs on the island which had been subject of an eradication program.

A team of volcanologists and scientists from the US Geological Survey are on standby and set to fly to Anatahan in order to study the volcano. *Reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta and AFP*



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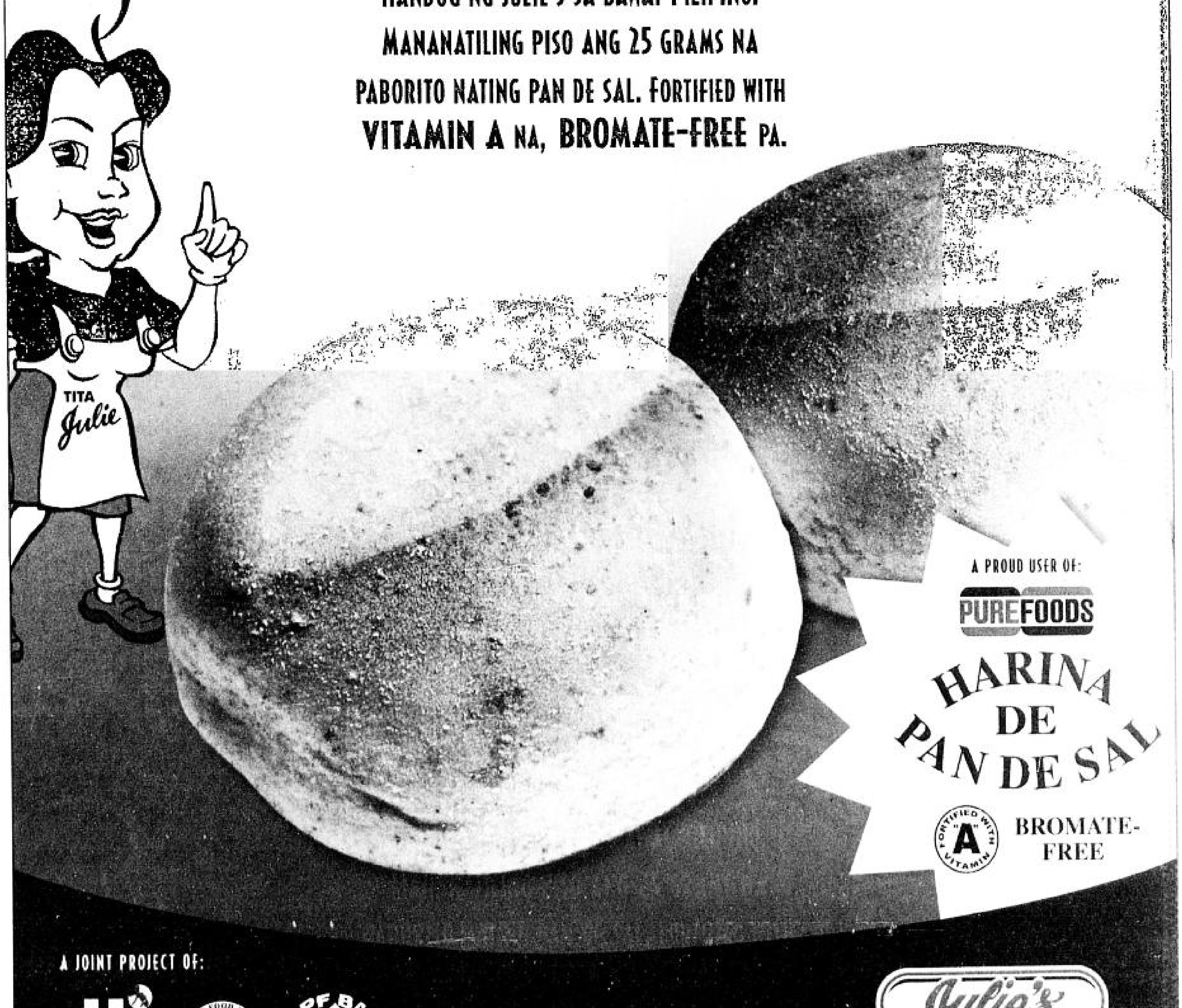

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Abus plan attack on American troops

From page A1

ing excitedly about the expected arrival of US soldiers on Jolo.

"The ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) is eager to have imported clothes ... to have their heads," she was quoted as saying.

"The ASG also plans to welcome the US troops with suicide attackers and car bombs," she said.

A military officer said information about the threat was passed on to US military personnel currently in Zamboanga City for an ongoing joint training exercise.

Bali attack

Recalling the terrorist attack in Bali, Indonesia, last October, the US Department of State warned Americans traveling to Malaysia that similar attacks targeting foreigners remained likely.

"Attacks similar to the October 2002 terrorist bombings in Bali, Indonesia, may occur in other Southeast Asian nations, including Malaysia," the state department said.

The US public announcement, which can be viewed on its website, read: "The Department of State reiterates its concern about attacks by members of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) based in the southern Philippines near the Malaysian State of Sabah."

"Terrorist groups do not distinguish between official and civilian targets ... Although the capacity of some elements of the ASG has been diminished by the recent military action in the Philippines, the ASG remains a security threat to areas in Sabah, which is close to the southern Philippines."

The state department also said that other extremist groups, such as the Jemaah Islamiya, had demonstrated transnational capabilities to carry out attacks in locations where Westerners congregate.

Despite efforts by both Malaysian and Philippine authorities to contain the JI and the Abu Sayyaf, the state department observed that "the region is remote and large in area, and assistance in security matters may not be readily available."

Karen Kelley, spokesperson of the US Embassy in Manila, explained the advisory. "This public announcement is specifically for Malaysia ... to give traveling Americans an idea of the country they are considering going to."

"For Americans, travel to Malaysia, especially Sabah, is not recommended because of the JI and the Abu Sayyaf in southern Philippines," she added.

The latest statement updates a similar travel advisory issued in November last year.

Australian update

A foreign ministry spokesperson in Canberra said the Australian travel advisory followed fresh information that Muslim extremists associated with JI were planning new attacks.

"The review of these travel advisories reflects the Australian government's ongoing concern about the capacity of Jemaah Islamiya to deliver a further terrorist attack," she said.

"It is well known that some of the key organizers of the Bali bombing remain at large."

The advisories warn travelers to take care in commercial and public areas frequented by foreigners, including shopping centers, clubs, hotels, bars and restaurants. They singled out the Malaysian state of Sabah as a possible terrorist target.

The advice was boosted as the alleged field commander of the Bali bombings, Imam Samudra, threatened a new terror campaign following suicide bomb attacks that killed at least 34 people in the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh.

As he was led to an armored police van in Bali on Wednesday, Samudra shouted: "After Riyadh there will be another one."

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar told Reuters yesterday that Washington had the right to warn its citizens but accused it of scaremongering, and of unnecessarily hurting Malaysia's valuable tourist trade.

"People fear as if Malaysia is not a safe country. This is more often than not exaggerated. We don't see in Malaysia incidents where we go and harm or injure foreigners," he said.

"This type of travel warning which creates fear and uncertainty is uncalled for."

Indonesian trainers

The ex-hostages also reported the arrival of two Indonesian men last December to help train Abu Sayyaf bandits and fresh recruits in Jolo's mountainous Patikul town.

The first of three batches of trainees, consisting of 30 rebels, got training in "explosives, guerrilla tactics and basic operation of crew serve weapons," the women hostages said, referring to weapons that require more than one person to fire. One of the escaped Indonesians said the combat training included lessons in mortar firing and "commando crawls."

The training was completed in March, the debriefing report said. Some trainees were tested in a recent clash with government troops, and about 100 left Jolo that month aboard two speedboats with the two Indonesians and Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani, possibly to carry out attacks elsewhere in the south, the report said.

One of the escaped Indonesian hostages said he was certain the foreign trainers were his compatriots because they spoke Javanese, the report said.

It added that the foreigners' presence bolsters suspicions of links between the Abu Sayyaf and JI.

Constantly on the run and evading troops, the bandits are supplied with food and ammunition by couriers and residents of some Muslim communities and through improvisation, the hostages said.

They recalled how Janjalani and aides dug up an unexploded bomb dropped by a military plane and retrieved the powder inside.

The bandits have satellite telephones, rifles with sniper scopes and handheld two-way radios, which they used to get warnings from supporters about military positions, the former hostages said.

Hostages were asked to carry ammunition or guns as a disguise, they said. "Often ... they feel like only playing hide and seek with the military," one hostage said. *AP, with reports from Norman Bordadora; Reuters, AFP*

Moro rebels topple eleven electric posts in Sultan Kudarat

From page A1

ordinating peace talks through the Organization of Islamic Conference, through Libya and Malaysia. "But of course, there are other options to consider, including utilizing the assistance of the US," Reyes told reporters.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said the Moro separatist movement was amenable to the proposal to let the United States mediate in the peace process.

Jaafar, among the MILF leaders charged for attacks against civilian communities in Mindanao, said the entry of America into the volatile peace process would help convince President Macapagal-Arroyo to implement all the interim agreements forged during the past three years.

"Probably, the (United States) can convince (Macapagal-Arroyo) to be serious about solving the Mindanao problem by honestly implementing all the agreements (the government) signed with us," he said.

But Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, the ranking Muslim leader in the administration, said he was in favor of labeling the MILF a terrorist organization should the renegade group fail to comply with Malacañang's June 1 ultimatum. He said the June 1 deadline gave the MILF rebels enough time "to show that they should not be tagged as terrorists."

"I support the President's move to give them that time. If they cannot show up, that means they deserved to be tagged (as such)," said Datumanong, a Maguindanaoan.

"The government is anticipating (the MILF to comply)," he added. "We will wait for that."

Men with chainsaws

Demetrio Jeres, general manager of Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, said the armed men told residents they were MILF fighters and that they were cutting off the electricity. The rebels used chainsaws, he said.

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said the attack only proved that the MILF did not spare civilians.

But Kabalu said the MILF did not do it. "The (local) politician, accompanied by Cafgu commander Sixto Santos, went to the Special Forces of an Army battalion in the area to request for 500 assorted firearms. And since it could not be granted on the battalion-level, they have to devise a way to justify their request," Kabalu said.

In North Upi, Maguindanao, MILF rebels killed a militiaman after an early morning attack in Barangay Sibucay, also on Wednesday.

More bombings

In the wake of the fresh attacks, officials warned that more bombings could occur in Central and Southern Mindanao.

Silvino Cinches, director of the National Bureau of Investigation in Central Mindanao, said his men were monitoring a five-man team of explosive experts with links to Jemaah Islamiya. The MILF has been accused of having links with the Indonesia-based terror group.

Chief Supt. Isidro Lapena, Southern Mindanao police chief, also aired a similar warning.

He ordered police commanders to step up intelligence gathering to thwart terrorist plots.

He also instructed police officers to intensify security in vital installations, airports, seaports, bus terminals, churches, theaters, marketplaces, commercial centers, government buildings, oil depots and power stations.

Cinches said the group was apparently headed for Zamboanga City and General Santos City after carrying out the deadly Koronadal City explosion that killed at least 10 people.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, national director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said the police already know the identities of the two suspects in the Koronadal blast.

Matillano, however, refused to give the names of the suspects. *Charlie C. Senase, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Julie S. Alipala and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with reports from Martin Marfil, Michael Lim Ubac*

Torres, Aventajado considered

SECRETARY Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, said the President was studying the possibility of appointing former Aquino executive secretary Ruben Torres or Robert Aventajado, President Joseph Estrada's assistant on flagship projects in Mindanao, chief of the government peace panel in talks with the MILF.

Ermita said the Palace was also considering a role for the US in the peace process with the MILF.

"We will try to see everything, and try out many things in order to be able to achieve that we've been looking for," he said.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol offered the hand of reconciliation to MILF rebels in his province, telling them they can join the mainstream even if they did not surrender.

"They can go back to their respective barangays, but without firearms, and the government will provide them with livelihood and other development projects as what is being done in Pikit town, site of the fierce fighting between government and MILF forces that began in February," Piñol said.

He said not all MILF fighters were terrorists.

"Some of them joined the rebel group due to the failure of government to attend to their basic needs. The other reason is they believe that it's a political struggle to attain independence," Piñol said.

He also reiterated his call to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to conduct localized peace talks with rebel leaders.

But Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said the proposed localized peace process was a divide and rule tactic.

Controversial lawyer ...

From page A1

tial son Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo to Ma. Victoria "Kakai" Manotok this afternoon at the Santuario de San Antonio at Forbes Park in Makati.

The reception will be held at the Malacañang garden.

Last year, Villaraza's wife, Sally, stood as principal sponsor to the wedding of presidential son, Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo, to Angela Montenegro.

In Filipino culture, standing as wedding or baptismal sponsor to the child of another symbolizes deep friendship.

Villaraza is a "private counsel" of President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, according to presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

The Villaraza and Angangco law firm is dubbed "The Firm" in legal circles due to its partners' closeness to the First Couple.

Formerly called the Cruz Villaraza and Carpio law office, the firm holds office at the LTA building in Makati which is owned by the First Gentleman's mother.

The President appointed Villaraza's former partners Antonio Carpio and Avelino Cruz as Supreme Court associate justice and presidential legal counsel, respectively.

Ms Macapagal also appointed Simeon Marcelo, who used to head the firm's litigation department, as Ombudsman.

The Firm's alleged links to questionable deals have been alluded to by the President's erstwhile publicist Dante Ang in his newspaper Manila Times. Ang lambasted Villaraza, whom he called "Viaje," the dog.

Ang said "Viaje" used his closeness to the First Couple to get lucrative deals.

Villaraza did not sue Ang but filed eight counts of libel against Daily Tribune publisher and editor Ninez Cacho-Olivares.

Olivares wrote a series of articles alleging that Villaraza demanded $20 million from Fraport, the German partner of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) in Naia 3, in exchange for his "background services."

Villaraza, according to Olivares, said he could fix the legal and political problems of Fraport in relation to the passenger terminal estimated to cost $500 million.

The Supreme Court nullified on May 5 all contracts of Piatco for the construction of Naia 3, paving the way for a government takeover of the passenger terminal.

Olivares mainly based her story on an alleged taped conversation between Fraport officials and two American lawyers mentioning Villaraza's offer for "background services."

Malacañang dissociated itself from the controversy by distancing itself from Villaraza's firm.

Intimate

In an interview aired on GMA television this week, Dato and Kakai said they wanted their wedding to be very personal and intimate.

Unlike Mikey's wedding, their wedding will not be covered by the media.

Kakai said she and Dato had "total control" over the details, including the guest list.

"(The President) just added a few names to our guest list, those whom we forgot. But she never imposed anything on us. Neither did (the First Gentleman)," she told GMA reporter Richelle Sy.

"This wedding will really reflect me and Dato ... It's not going to be a political get-together. It's going to be a really personal event," she added.

The other principal sponsors are presidential brother Arturo Macapagal, Enrique Razon Jr., Enrique Aboitiz Jr., Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Corazon Tamayo, Adela Kruidenier, Teresa Gozon, Gina de Venecia and Sharon Cuneta.

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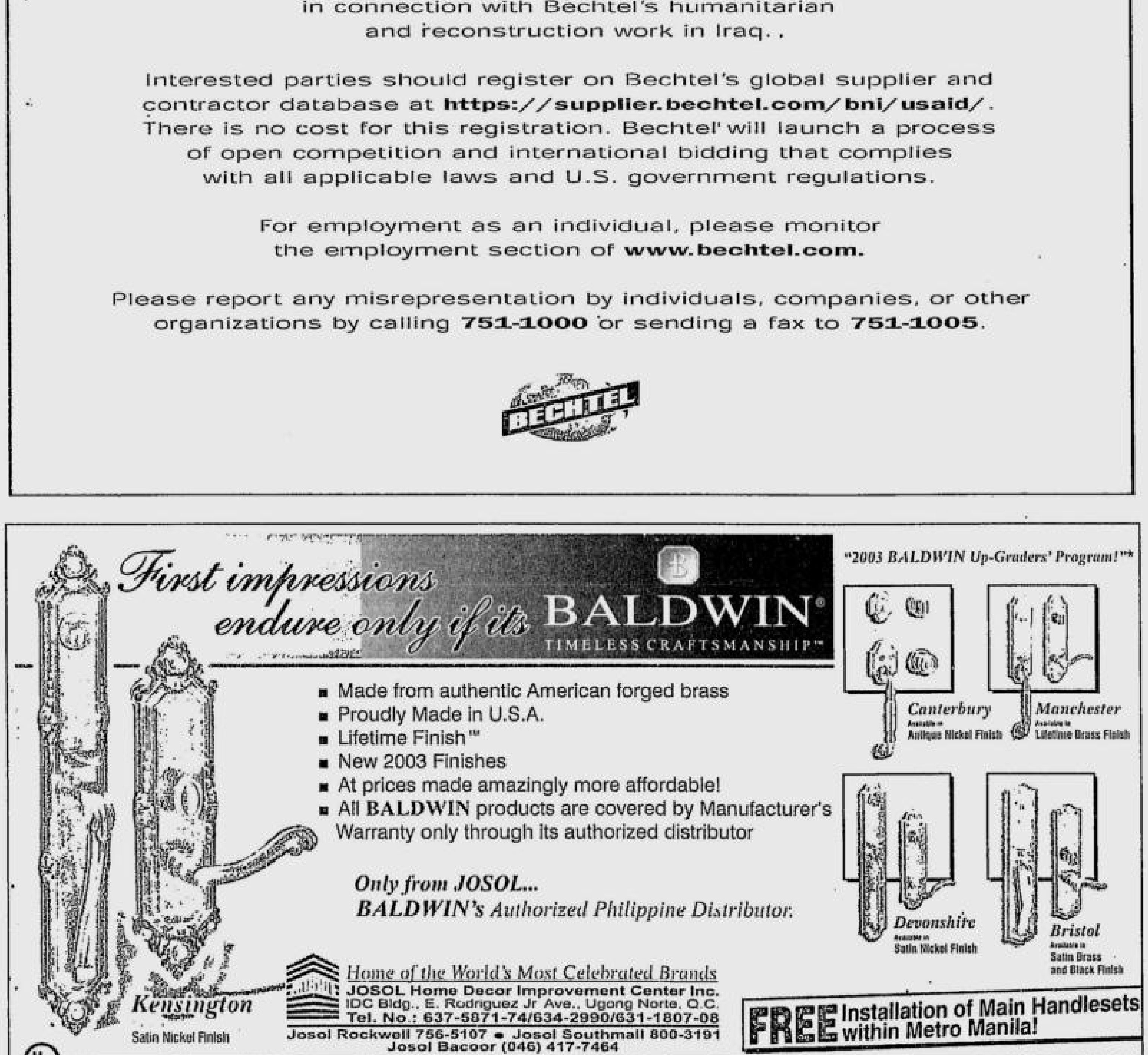

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Gov't seeking compensation

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT is seeking compensation and insurance benefits from the American employers of the three overseas Filipino workers who died in the Riyadh bomb attacks.

The labor department has listed three dead OFWs: Rogelio Pababero, Getulio Templo and Serafin Igos Hernandez. But the Department of Foreign Affairs cannot confirm Hernandez's death until his remains are found.

"All indications show that he could be dead. In fact, the family has already been informed. But as of the last report by Ambassador Bahnarim Guinomla, his body has yet to be found," said DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros.

Witnesses—a co-worker of Hernandez's and a Saudi citizen who knew him—told Filipino authorities that Hernandez had been killed. They said the area where he was at the time of the attack was obliterated and there was no way he could have survived.

"But until we find the body, we won't be able to confirm," Lecaros said.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) has started coordinating with the US firms employing the OFWs who were killed or injured in the bomb attacks.

Owwa chief Virgilio Angelo yesterday said even the survivors of the attacks could receive benefits depending on the nature of their medication and treatment.

The government is also working out OFWs' claims for back wages and compensation due before the attacks, Angelo said.

But repatriation of the remains of those killed may take about a month, or until all required documents have been completed, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said.

Both she and Angelo took exception to the complaints of OFW families that they were not immediately informed by the government of the fate of their relatives in Riyadh.

Sto. Tomas told reporters that it took time for the agencies to find the file of the OFWs and contact the families, and that labor officials here and in Riyadh were doing their best.

"It's not that easy; Saudi Arabia is not like the Philippines. It's a different world altogether. In fairness to our people there, they had to make the rounds of different hospitals [to identify who were hurt]," she said.

Angelo said he had spoken with Pababero's widow and explained the Owwa procedures to her.

Of the 19 Filipinos listed by the labor department as injured, all are out of danger. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Death came . . .

From page A1

phone, Meriam said, adding: "I knew right then that my husband was gone."

Terry, a radio electronics engineering graduate of the Feati University, worked as a communications technician in the office of the Arabian National Guard, a few kilometers away from the housing compound where he stayed.

According to his wife, it was he who installed the communication equipment in the vehicles of the Arabian National Guard and the police force.

Meriam also recalled Terry saying that the housing compound was actually not safe because of the presence there of Americans, and that because Americans were tops on the terror hit list, even Filipinos working with them had been taking extra precautions.

She herself stayed in the residential complex in 2001-02, when she worked as a nursing assistant in the nearby dispensary, and she remembers the place as well-guarded and its residents always prepared for terrorist attacks.

Big house built, plan to buy car

Meriam, a native of Bacolod City, said her husband worked very hard to ensure a better future for the family.

But he was not even able to enjoy the big house he built in Victomar Subdivision in Mataasnakahoy, she lamented.

In their last online chat, Terry told Meriam to start canvassing prices for a good car because he planned to buy one. He was to come home next year.

"He said he wanted a car for us so that we would not have a hard time commuting to Olongapo [in Zambales province], where our apartments for rent are located," Meriam said.

Terry's elder brother, Leonardo, described him as a workaholic who worked even during holidays.

Leonardo said that before Terry returned to Riyadh after his last vacation here on Jan. 20-March 30, "he repaired my two electric fans and television set—that was my last souvenir from him."

The first time he left home to work in Riyadh, Terry received these words of advice from Leonardo: Work abroad for only five years.

"I told him that since we were the only living family members with the death of our parents, we should spend quality time together," Leonardo said. "But he told me he wanted to save money to build a house for his family. After their house was finished, he wanted to work longer because, he said, he wanted to buy a car."

The work ethic appears to run in the blood. Their father, who died when both brothers were young, was one of the town's first traders in coffee and *lanzones*.

Meriam said Terry was kind, thoughtful and responsible.

"Instead of buying luxury items, he saved money for our house," she said. "Then he had apartment buildings built so that when he retired, we would still have a steady source of income."

The two met 21 years ago, when she was working as a beautician in Manila and he, a communications technician at a Makati hotel.

They had earlier been phone pals, and went steady for four years before getting married. They first settled in Olongapo where Terry worked at the then US military base.

In 1998, they moved to Mataasnakahoy to be near Terry's brother and other relatives.

Terry's last long vacation enabled him to cement bonds with his wife and their daughters—Glecery Marie, 16, and Maika Jean, 8.

A teary-eyed Glecery said her father went with her when she enrolled at the Lyceum of Batangas' college of nursing.

"He told me to study hard and develop my potentials. He even took a picture of me there, right after I enrolled," she said.

Glecery remembers well the man she described as an affectionate father.

"The only things I forgot to tell him when he was here were how much I love him and that I will do good in my studies to show him how proud I am of having him as my father," she said, sobbing now. "But I know he knew how much I love him."

The other daughter, Maika, was too overcome with emotion to speak beyond saying that she knew where her father was.

In the master bedroom of the family home, Glecery showed off the computer that comes complete with a modem, scanner and ICQ equipment.

She said it was Terry who taught her how to use the computer, so that they could chat online every morning.

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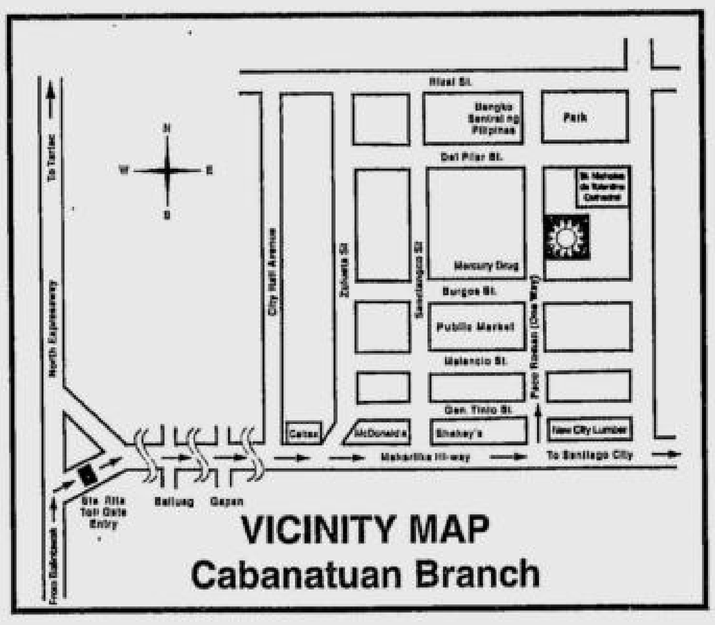

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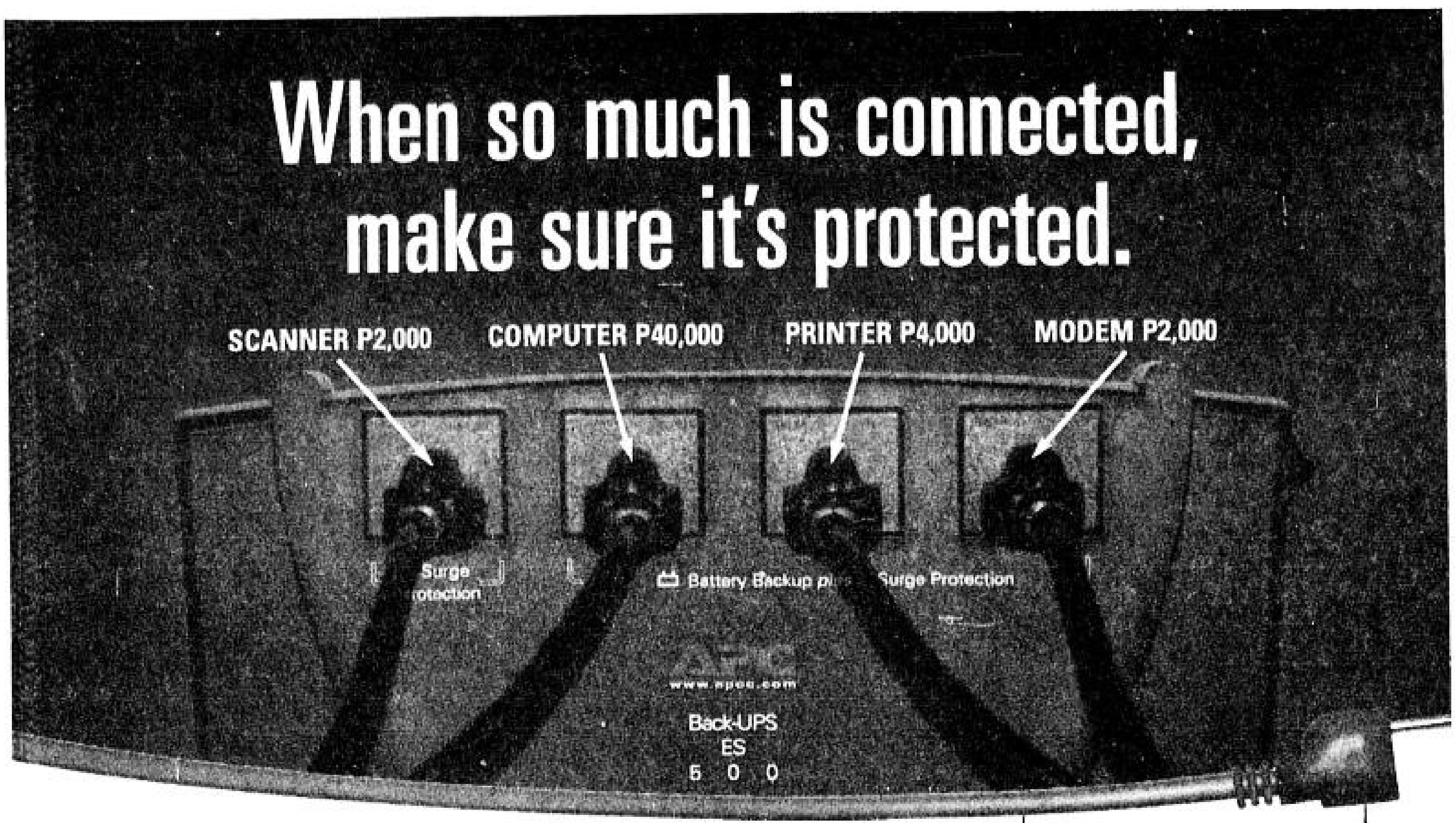

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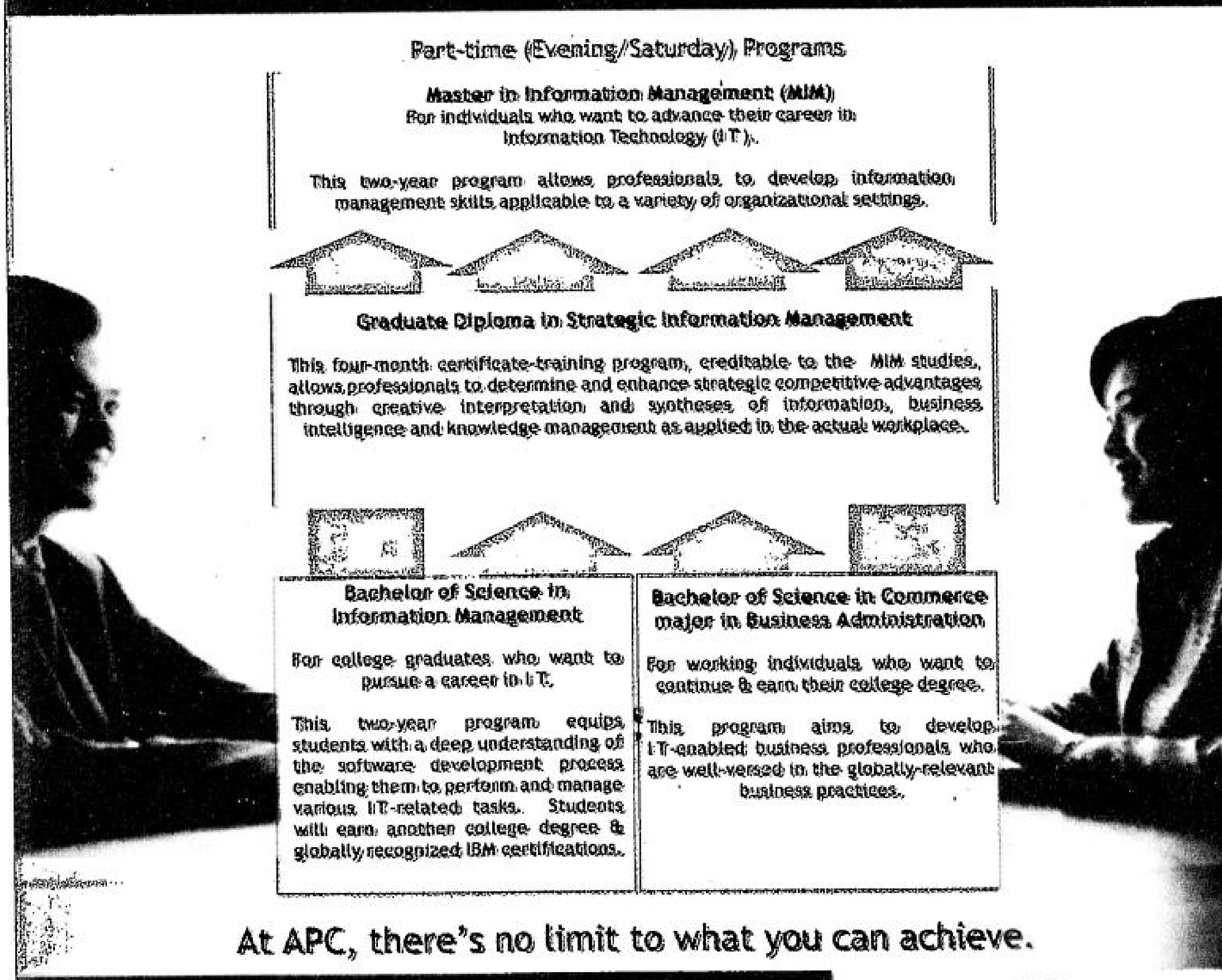

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TYCOON Lucio Tan to launch Ginebra Kapitan, which looks like Ginebra San Miguel from the bottle to its label.

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From page A1

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Friends paid for TV ads

From page A1

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The INQUIRER has learned that Infinit-1 Productions Inc. in Makati produced the Reyes ad that has been on view since last month.

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Reyes chairs the NDCC.

The ad, which has three versions, shows Reyes directing people to be alert during calamities and fires. The sponsor is identified as the Office of Civil Defense, an agency under the Department of National Defense.

Awareness level

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One of his aides said that the ads were being aired free, more like a public service announcement.

Reyes first rose to prominence in 2000 when as the Armed Forces chief of staff, he launched a successful "all-out war" against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, recovering the 47 camps the MILF had appropriated for themselves as their own sovereign territory.

The following year, he was again in the limelight when he withdrew military support from then President Joseph Estrada and clinched the presidency for then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Honor gays on 'X-Men' day, urges Imee

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This is to finally give recognition to the gay community for its contributions to society mostly in the arts, music, literature, fashion and academe, she said.

Gays still suffer discrimination in Philippine society despite such contributions, noted Marcos, who during her father's regime was deeply involved in various cultural projects.

And even as ordinary individuals serving either as single parents or beauticians, they are entitled to accolades for being "responsible citizens," Marcos said.

"Some of us still look down on these X-Men," she said. "I think it's about time to give them this (kind of) recognition."

Her proposal hardly surprised House reporters yesterday because Marcos was known for sliding into playful gay-speak herself in casual chats and sometimes even at press forums.

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Volt Contreras

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Bt corn sale to continue, Cito decides

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

AGRICULTURE Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo has slammed the door on hunger strikers' demand for a moratorium on genetically engineered (GE) Bt corn in the country, telling them in a letter to lift their 24-day protest and seek redress through other "established" means.

"Unless new scientific evidence is received through correct and due process, I consider myself estopped from further acting on your request for a moratorium," Lorenzo said in a letter he personally delivered to the hunger strikers on Wednesday.

"I personally appeal to you and your sympathizers to seek redress through established protocols and refrain from exercising means like a hunger strike that could threaten your health and well-being," Lorenzo said.

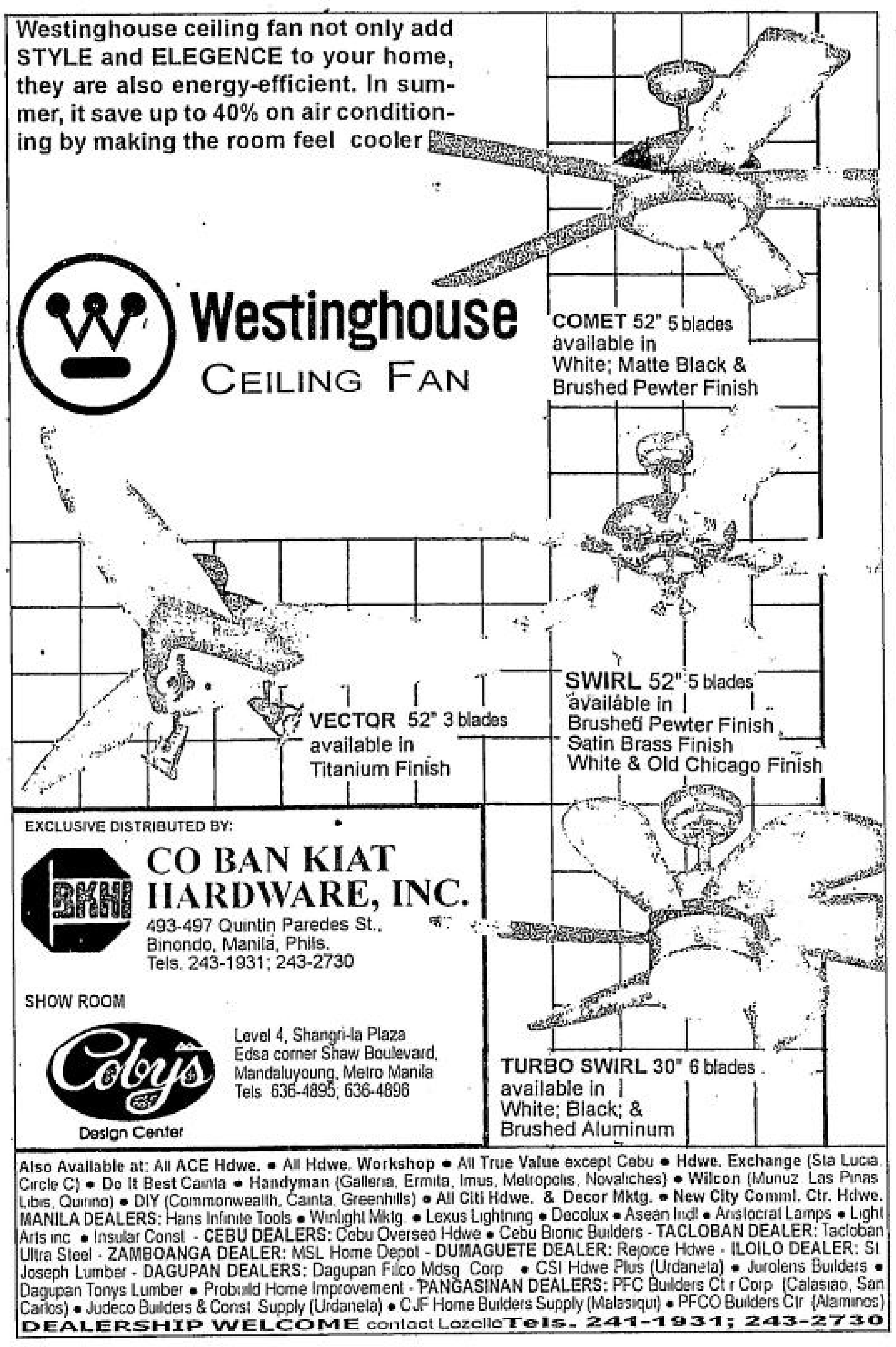
Roberto Verzola, leader of the hunger strikers, said Lorenzo's letter virtually denied their petition for a moratorium, but he still hoped the scientific evidence presented to the Department of Agriculture by scientists opposed to Bt corn would convince Lorenzo of the dangers of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Verzola said he and fellow hunger strikers Luisita Esmao, Ann Larracas and Fr. Robert Reyes will push on with their protest action, now on its 25th day, outside the gates of the DA.

After delivering his letter to Verzola and his group at their tent outside the DA on Wednesday, Lorenzo was engaged in a discussion by the anti-GMO activists.

Verzola said it was clear from the discussion that Lorenzo was "not familiar with the many issues connected with Bt corn."

In his letter to Verzola, Lorenzo said what the hunger strikers wanted was for him to "render a political action that will reverse more than five years of scientific studies by government and the private sector," a process he said Verzola was once a part of.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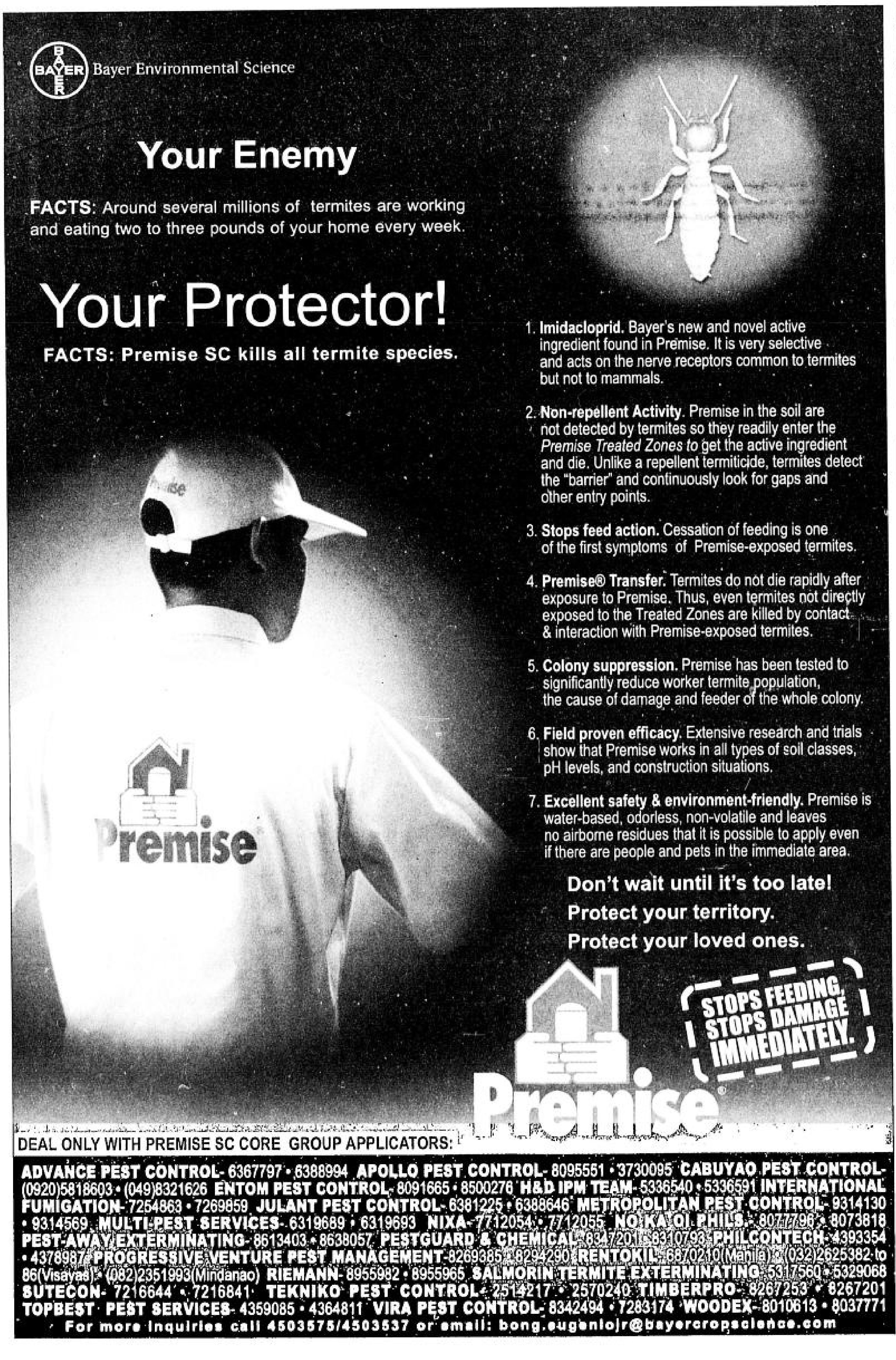
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CUBAO ROAD-CLEARING

Wider, cleaner sidewalks

By Luige del Puerto

THE MMDA'S sidewalk-clearing operation in Cubao, Quezon City may be welcome news for commuters and residents in the area, but not for small businessmen eking out a living in the streets. JOAN BONDOC

COMMUTERS in Cubao, Quezon City passed through wider, cleaner sidewalks yesterday after almost a week of clearing operations.

The Metro Manila Development Authority has already destroyed most of the sidewalk obstructions on Edsa, from Quezon Avenue up to New York Avenue, an INQUIRER survey showed.

Among the establishments demolished were a Goldilocks outlet; a Mr. Quickie repair shop and several other stalls found mostly near bus terminals.

Throughout the operation, owners could only watch in disbelief as MMDA cranes and concrete breakers bulldozed their stalls, leaving in their wake a pile of debris. Not much is left of the kiosks where bus drivers and passengers once ate and bought take-home gifts.

Vergel de Dios, chief of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center, said that anything—be it a stall, post or wall—standing six meters from the road, will be destroyed. This is all part of a comprehensive effort to ease traffic in the metropolis, De Dios said.

On Edsa, there are establishments, posts and walls that have been marked for destruction.

The mark "X" on a structure indicates that it will soon be torn down and that notice has been served on the owner.

The clearing operation has been relentless for days now, De Dios said.

He identified two objectives: To rid the place of illegal vendors and to clear the sidewalks of obstructions.

Cubao now has visibly less vendors on its sidewalks. A jewelry peddler has set up shop on one side of the road demarcated by a daub of red paint that seems to strictly say "stay there, no spilling over."

Vendors usually crowd the sidewalks, making it nearly impossible for commuters and pedestrians to get to their destinations safely.

"*Mas maaliwalas na ang paglalakad ngayon doon* (It is easier now to take a stroll there)," said De Dios. "Instead of (waiting) on the road for buses, commuters can now wait by the sidewalk. This will ease traffic in that area."

De Dios said the MMDA employed three dump trucks and two concrete breakers for the clearing operations.

The traffic operations chief said the stall owners knew what was coming. They had been warned weeks ago, and had been served notices to that effect, he said.

MANG Rudy Balbalosa and Aling Dorie Bello can only stand there and watch as heavy machinery raze their stalls to the ground. JOAN BONDOC

Don't get your hopes up, NBI tells pyramid investors

By Philip Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation officials yesterday cautioned investors in pyramid schemes not to get their hopes up after suspects Rose Baladjay and Erin Mateo promised to return their investments.

Ricardo Diaz, NBI-Interpol unit chief, said the investors would be lucky if they recover even 20 percent of their investments in the bogus money-making ventures.

"If all the properties and bank accounts of the perpetrators are collated, they would amount to only 20 percent of the total claims," Diaz said.

Baladjay of Multitel Corp., and Mateo of Mateo Management Group on Tuesday said they would pay back their investors.

But Diaz said that he does not believe the suspects could pay all of the investors or return all of the money invested in their firms.

In Baladjay's case, the Anti-Money Laundering Council has frozen her bank accounts, Diaz said.

"I was told by somebody who was able to take a peek into those accounts that they are certainly not as big as Baladjay claims," Diaz added.

He said he doubted that the suspects could pay back their investors because the money invested had already been used to pay "the managers, counselors and the interests owed to other investors."

Diaz added that the suspects might also have difficulty selling or giving up their property because they are facing charges in court.

Baladjay is said to be behind a P20-billion pyramid scam involving a million investors.

Mateo is allegedly behind another pyramid scam involving 950 investors who invested P193 million and $6 million.

Lawmen shoot it out in Caloocan precinct

By Tina Santos

A ROOKIE officer was seriously hurt in a shooting incident involving a police official and his subordinate right inside the Northern Police District Office's branch on Langaray Street, Kaunlaran Village, Caloocan City, police reported yesterday.

P01 Roger Giwagiw was hit in the right thigh after Insp. Ferdinand del Rosario, NPDO Intelligence Operations Section chief, fired his gun and missed his intended target, P01 Jose Santos, police said.

Del Rosario and Santos yesterday were ordered "restricted" to quarters. Both are facing criminal and administrative charges, police said.

According to an NPDO report, Del Rosario ordered Santos to go on patrol and use his car at around 4 a.m. Wednesday.

But Santos reportedly got irked when his superior did not give him gasoline money. This led to a heated exchange where Del Rosario lost his temper, drew his service gun and fired. Del Rosario missed Santos and hit Giwagiw, who was one of the lawmen trying to pacify the hotheads.

Kuratong gang men eyed in QC armored van hit

By Alcuin Papa

QUEZON City police yesterday said that the robbery of an Asiatrust Bank armored van last Wednesday could have been an inside job.

Police are also not discounting the possibility that remnants of the Kuratong Baleleng gang are behind the heist.

Supt. Raul Medina of the Central Police District, told the INQUIRER that the CPD has launched a manhunt for the suspects who robbed an Asiatrust Bank armored van of at least P1 million while it was in front of a Dunkin Donuts outlet on Aurora Boulevard.

Medina said the suspects could have had inside information since they knew where to wait for the van. Investigators also have come up with sketches of two of the suspects, based on witnesses' descriptions.

"The heist was well-organized and so was the getaway," Medina said. "The manner in which the robbery was carried out is similar to the (operations of the) Kuratong Baleleng gang. So we are thinking this was done by some of its remnants or a group mimicking the Kuratong's modus operandi."

NBP officials under fire for shabu trade in jail

By Christian Esguerra

IT IS either they are blind or they simply refuse to see.

Jail officials are in hot water for the reported proliferation of banned items such as drugs, cellular phones and even appliances at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City.

NBP chief Francisco Abunales has ordered an investigation following the confiscation of 23 bags of shabu and several appliances in separate raids at the maximum security compound the other day.

While admitting that drugs kept in sachets were much easier to smuggle because they could be hidden, an incensed Abunales noted that appliances such as air-conditioning units and refrigerators could not have escaped inspection. The appliances, along with a mobile and intercom phone, were seized from drug convict Peter Co during the raid.

Alarmed by the spread of prohibited items at the NBP, Abunales said he had deployed several "secret agents" to spy on jail officers suspected of providing protection to moneyed inmates.

The NBP is also set to implement an ID system to better screen visitors. Abunales said his office would soon issue identification cards to legitimate visitors such as wives, children and close relatives of prisoners.

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Women's group urges court to dismiss Fariñas libel case

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE WOMEN'S group Samasamang Inisyatiba ng Kababaihan Para sa Pagbabago ng Batas at Lipunan (Sibol) yesterday asked State Prosecutor Roberto Lao during preliminary investigation to dismiss the libel case filed by former Ilocos Norte governor Rodolfo Fariñas against its officials.

Fariñas had sued for libel Sibol officials Ana Lea Sarabia, Elizabeth Angsioco and Evalyn Ursua.

In its counter-affidavit, Sibol claimed it was Ma. Teresa Carlson herself who "exposed her story to the media in 1996, accusing complainant Fariñas of beatings and spousal abuse," and even appearing in television shows of ABS-CBN and GMA-7, said Sibol. With Carlson's personal declaration on national television, "there is no reason for us or the general public not to believe her," the group stressed.

That Carlson later "reconciled" with Fariñas "does not erase the fact and truth that at one time, Ms. Carlson . . . created public awareness of her private life with complainant Fariñas."

Fariñas had claimed that he had been "convicted . . . of the alleged offense of wife battery, without due process of law" by Sibol and the other respondents from ABS-CBN and the INQUIRER.

Maganto threatens to name Cardeño's police coddlers

By Christian Esguerra

THE MAN Malacañang has tasked to go after the killers of government informant Baron Cervantes has accused policeman friends of suspect Supt. Rafael Cardeño of protecting the fugitive.

Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto yesterday warned that he would name the people in the service, whom he suspects of coddling Cardeño if police would start an investigation of the Monday raid in Laguna where two people were killed.

"If that happens, I'll presume they're coddling these criminals," Maganto told the INQUIRER. "Then I'll name them.

"I'm not the bad guy here," said Maganto, who was tapped by President Macapagal-Arroyo to lead the hunt for Cardeño and Santiago "Sonny" Camacho after they were implicated in the killing of Cervantes in 2001.

Last Monday, Maganto's task force raided a shack in Famy, Laguna after receiving a tip from a "very reliable informant" that Cardeño and Camacho were spotted there.

The informant had close contact with Camacho, he said.

Benjamin Bagolbagol, 49, was killed during the raid because of his "violent reaction" toward the raiding team, Maganto said. Team leader SP01 Apolinario Jimenez was also killed in the raid.

TONGCO

'Kikay' pulled out . . .

From page A24

tion permit that the MTRCB had approved, Suarez said.

Laguardia said the MTRCB committee that screened "Kikay" gave the film an R-18 rating, approving its release without any deletions "because the sex scenes were done in context and weren't titillating."

The MTRCB chief is scheduled to meet with El Niño's Pascual today.

Pascual is facing a minimum of six months suspension of the permit to exhibit films if proven that El Niño had inserted sex scenes the MTRCB has not approved in "Kikay."

Ali Mall Cinemas also face closure for an indefinite period if proven that they had conspired with El Niño Films to exhibit the questionable film version.

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Raymart Santiago, ex-solon in road rage incidents

By Alcuin Papa and Luigi del Puerto

ACTOR Raymart Santiago will face charges of physical injuries after he was accused of beating up a driver during a traffic altercation in Quezon City on Wednesday night.

Police are set to file charges against Santiago, a mainstay of GMA-7's "Kool Ka Lang," based on the complaint of Frederick Lorenzana, 29, company driver of Master Juicers.

Lorenzana told investigators he was driving the company truck (CPL-619) when he accidentally hit Santiago's Ford Expedition along Katipunan Avenue at 11:45 p.m. Wednesday.

Lorenzana said that when he and Santiago's driver got down from their vehicles to inspect the damage, Santiago alighted from the Ford Expedition and cursed at the truck driver. Santiago then hit him in the jaw, took his driver's license, and left, Lorenzana said.

In Makati City, former party-list congressman Omar Fajardo shot at a passenger bus after it hit the Mercedes Benz van in which he was riding on Wednesday night.

"I felt at that time that the bus driver intended to finish us off," said Fajardo, a former representative of Ang Bagong Bayani-OFW party at the 10th congress.

He said the van was on Guadalupe bridge when a Quezon Liner bus hit the vehicle.

The impact caused the van to skid and almost hit the side of the bridge, Fajardo said.

When Fajardo's driver gained control of their van, they chased the bus to find out its license plate number, the former congressman said. He said that they got near the bus on Ayala Avenue, but the bus again hit their van.

Fajardo said he felt their lives were in danger so he fired a warning shot with his .9-mm pistol.

Police said Fajardo had a special permit to carry the gun.

Makati Police investigator Arnel Noriega said he found what appeared to be four bullet holes on the right side of the bus.

The bus company has refused to file charges against Fajardo. Bus driver Severino Coronado had left for the provinces, police said, adding that they could not file charges of illegal discharge of firearm if there were no complainants.

But Fajardo said he would file frustrated murder charges against bus driver Coronado and the bus company.

'Kikay' pulled out of cinemas for inserting sex scenes

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) yesterday ordered the pullout of El Niño Films' "Kikay" from theaters nationwide after it found insertions of unapproved sex scenes in the film.

MTRCB chair Consoliza Laguardia said that on Wednesday she had received a text message from an unidentified concerned citizen reporting the insertions.

Laguardia said she then went to watch the movie, starring bold starlet Maye Tongco, in Cinema 7 of Ali Mall in Quezon City.

She said she and her group had found at least 10 sex scenes that were not in the copy of the movie that El Niño Films had sent to the MTRCB for screening.

"True enough, what I saw at Ali Mall was a version totally different from what the movie's producer gave the MTRCB for screening," Laguardia told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The questionable sex scenes show the movies' female lead Tongco engaged in several graphic sex scenes with her costars Mark Dionisio, Ryan Muñoz and Francis Enriquez.

But Eddie Suarez, an assistant of Mila Pascual, head of El Niño Films, denied that the outfit had inserted unapproved sex scenes in the commercial run of "Kikay."

"Had there been insertions in the film, then the movie would have lasted longer than the time the MTRCB had allowed," he said.

The film finishes at an hour and 48 minutes, the exact time specified on the exhibi-

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Palaro in July eyed; ideal, say Lanao hosts

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PROVINCIAL government of Lanao del Norte yesterday expressed delight over the prospect of holding the Palarong Pambansa after the opening of the school year.

"There will be no problem," said Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo. "Although preparations are already in place, we could use a full month's time to avoid small hitches."

President Arroyo announced that the Palaro will definitely be held in Lanao del Norte when she visited the province on Monday. She didn't however specify a date.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain said Wednesday the Palaro would most likely be held in July after he requested the Department of Education to waive the age eligibility for graduating competitors.

The delay of the Palaro staging will automatically disqualify graduating and high school participants.

Buhain said he wrote DepEd Secretary Edilberto de Jesus to ask for a waiver on the affected participants.

Gov. Dimaporo said holding the Palaro in July would also give them more time to spruce up the Mindanao Civic Center and perfect the opening and closing ceremonies.

She said they could also improve on other requirements like the billeting and transfer of the student/athletes, facilitation of the results and media set-up, like internet connection.

She said other concerns like peace and order are already being taken cared of by the military.

Dimaporo said that, this early, the MCC is being groomed to be the headquarters of the Mindanao Sports Council, which is being planned by the governors and mayors of Mindanao later this year.

The MSC is being eyed as the umbrella sports organization which will run all the athletic meets in the region, including the Mindanao Friendship Games which was initiated by the PSC.

"We will never run out of sports development programs here in Lanao del Norte, which will spearhead Mindanao's "Peace Through Sports" efforts," said Dimaporo.

The Palaro was originally set May 4-11 but peace and security concerns caused by a rebel attack in two towns near Tubod, main hub of the Games, led to the postponement.

Lanao del Norte provincial administrator Jesus Tubio said volunteers who have pledged their services for the staging of Palaro remain enthusiastic working in different committee of the Palaro.

RP's SEAG budget swells to ₱40 million

Marc Anthony Reyes

THE COST alone of sending athletes to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December is expected to reach P40 million, according to the Philippine Sports Commission.

The amount far exceeds the agency's P30 million budget during the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games.

"We are expecting more athletes because we want more gold medals this time," said PSC executive director Edgardo Mateo.

He added that the increase in expenditure is understandable because of the rising cost of living.

However, Mateo maintained that the PSC will fund all athletes who will qualify for the SEAG, in accordance with the standards being drafted by the Philippine Olympic Committee and the PSC.

The P40 million budget is just for the plane fare and accommodation for the expected 300 athletes joining the Games.

The actual budget being allotted by the agency for the training expenses of the SEAG-bound athletes could reach P180 million, according to the PSC.

PSC chair Eric Buhain earlier stressed that the country is gunning for at least a third place finish in Vietnam before the country hosts the Games for a third time in 2005.

The country won only 31 gold medals during the KL Games and wound up fifth, behind Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Buhain is optimistic the country can duplicate if not surpass its second place finish in 1991 where the Filipinos won 91 gold medals, one gold short of Indonesia's total output.

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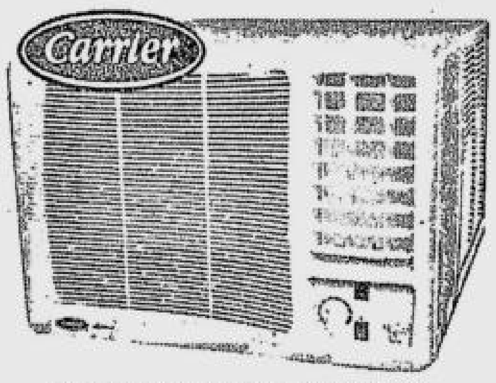

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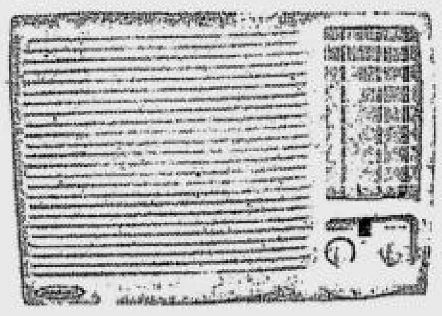

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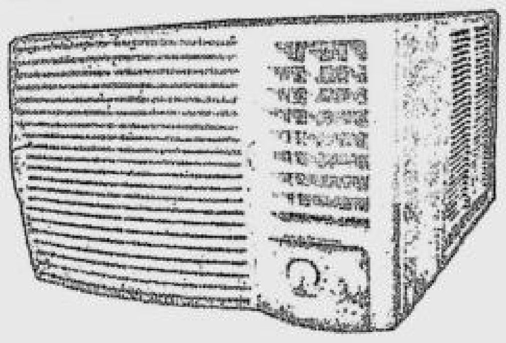

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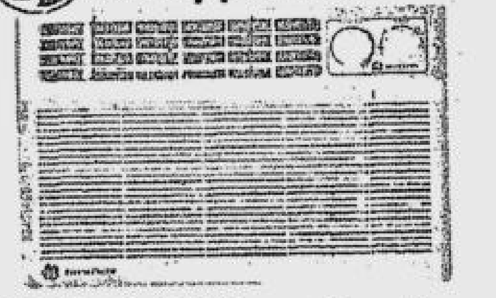

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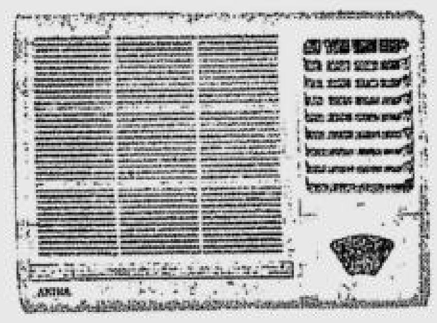

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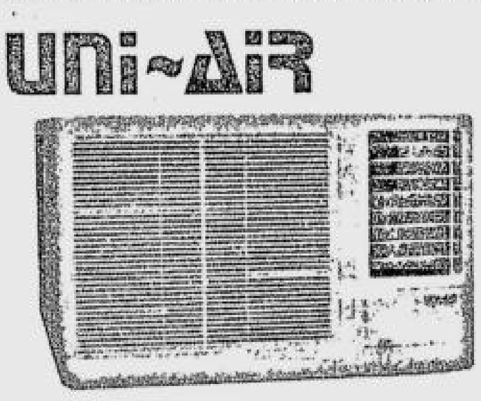

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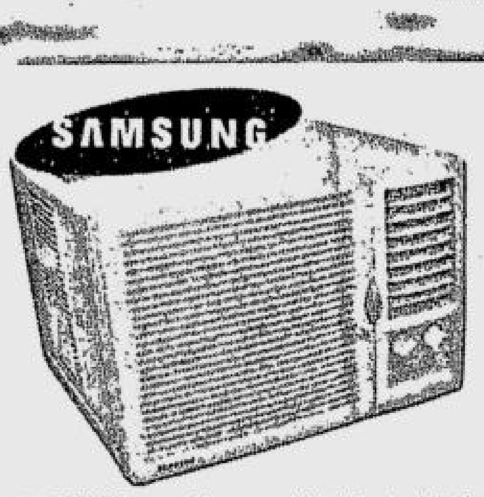

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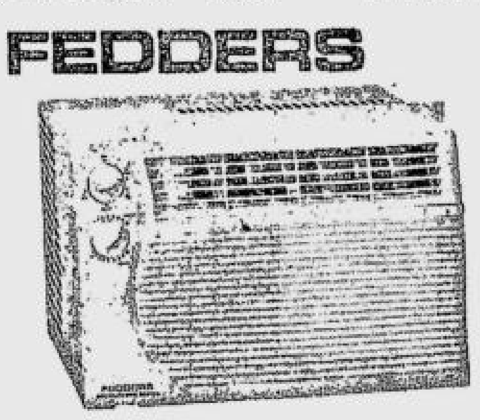

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FedEx offers Hawkins ₱2.7 million

Eala prods Alvarez to formalize appeal

By June Navarro

IT'S P2.7 million or nothing.

FedEx management made this offer yesterday after the PBA Commissioner's Office urged the team to formalize its appeal on the league's decision with respect to the case of Rene "Bong" Hawkins.

Over a month ago, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala ruled that FedEx must honor the remainder of Hawkins' two-year contract worth roughly P400,000 a month.

The PBA decision triggered off stiff opposition from FedEx team manager Lito Alvarez.

Alvarez, shunning Eala's advice, offered to pay Hawkins a total of P2.7 million for the two remaining seasons, a proposition that Alvarez reiterated to the INQUIRER yesterday.

"If Hawkins won't bite, then it's up to him to make a legal move," dared Alvarez, anticipating that legal action would ensue should Hawkins fail to agree with the settlement offer.

Eala, however, prodded Alvarez to formalize his appeal as soon as possible since the PBA decision was handed down on April 9 yet.

Although there are no rules governing the exact deadline for such an appeal, Eala said one month is more than enough for FedEx to formally contest his decision.

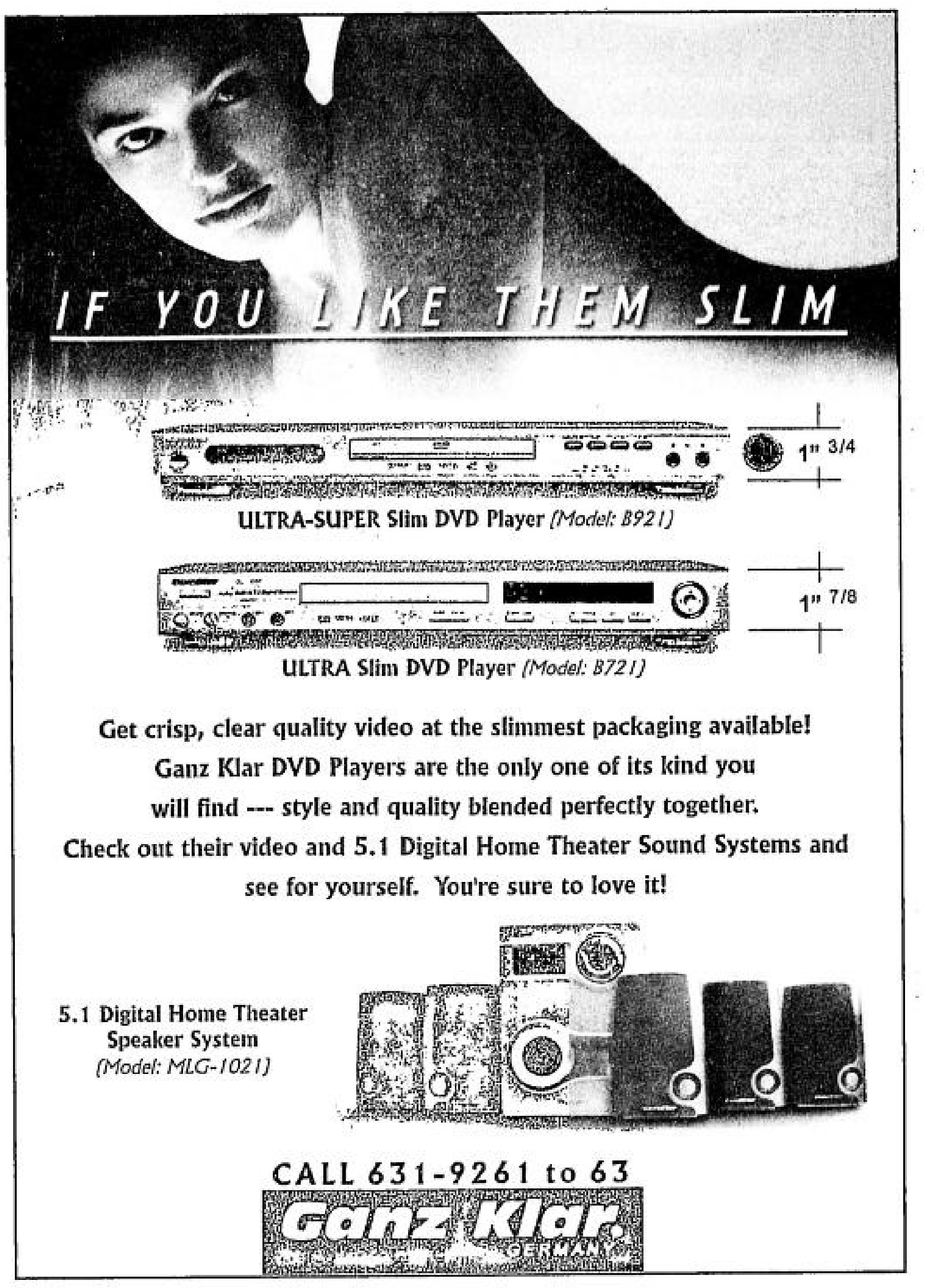
Alvarez said the Express would submit a formal appeal before the PBA Board of Governors during its regular monthly meeting in the first week of June.

Alvarez said the P2.7-million offer would represent payment for the remaining two years of Hawkins' four-year contract.

The Express inherited the contract of Hawkins after the Bert Lina-owned squad purchased the franchise of Tanduay in the league at the end of the 2001 season.

At that time, Hawkins was in the second year of a four-year contract worth over P13 million.

The Express religiously paid Hawkins P400,000 a month in 2002 but withheld the 6-foot-3 power forward's salary at the start of the season, citing the presence of an exit clause in the pact after two years.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Ginebra, Shell try to stay alive

BARANGAY Ginebra and Shell, squads in the heat of battle for the last remaining quarterfinal slot in Group B, try to keep their flickering hopes alive when they tackle separate rivals today in the Samsung PBA All Filipino Cup at the Ynares Center.

On the brink of elimination with a 5-11 record, the Kings hope to bring down the Batang Red Bull Thunder in the 7:30 p.m. mainer to stay within striking distance of a berth in the next round.

At the same time, the Shell Turbochargers (5-10) are aiming for a win against the San Miguel Beermen in the 5 p.m. opener to keep the Kings at bay in the final stretches going into the quarterfinals.

The Kings and the Turbochargers both came from ego-boosting victories.

June Navarro

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P'foods protests

THE PUREFOODS TJ Hotdogs yesterday put their 77-76 setback against the FedEx Express under protest, pointing out that the game clock expired before Jerry Codiñera's buzzer-beating twinner.

Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio claimed that, on a different angle, the ball left Codiñera's hands shortly after the red light on top of the glass had blinkered.

"We dissected the tape frame by frame and it showed that Codiñera converted the shot right after the final buzzer had sounded," said Gregorio.

June Navarro

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3rd Prize	John Casipit	Wood Peaker
HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION: FLAT KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Louie Santos	Maskara Fiesta 2003
2nd Prize	Joy Claudio	Philippines For Love
3rd Prize	Arnold Arias	Guardian Angel
COLLEGE DIVISION: GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Rey Baron	Tropang Pirana
2nd Prize	Wilmar Garcia	Hawaian Fish
3rd Prize	Raymond Tajan	Bocaue Pagoda
COLLEGE DIVISION: FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Eugene Mallari	Lucas The Two Headed
2nd Prize	Arsenic Rodriguez	Lovely
3rd Prize	Frederick Nucala	Bakya ni Lola
ADULTS DIVISION: GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Jing Torno	Super Geometrickong
2nd Prize	Isagani Cejulao	Manila Spots
3rd Prize	Lorie Igana	Kurimaw
ADULTS DIVISION: FIGURE KITE CATEGORY .		
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2nd Prize	Ricardo Cruz	3 Headed Dragon
3rd Prize	Salvador Estrada	Giant Wasp
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	Tito Salve	Bear Brand Kite
SARANGGOLA NG BARANGAY		
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THEME KITE AWARD		
	Angelito Cruz	G Portrait Of The Great
FAMILY SPOTTING		
	Pilones Family	Escobido Family
	Sala Family	Muhi Family

FAVORITE OF THE CROWD

ELEMENTARY DIVISION: FLAT KITE CATEGORY	Jhelson Sambaga	Jun Gie Bee
HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION: FLAT KITE CATEGORY	Michael Onito	Year Of The Goat Face
COLLEGE DIVISION: GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY	Regie De Leon	Dragon Ball
COLLEGE DIVISION: FIGURE KITE CATEGORY	Joseph Gueco	Ratel Snake
ADULTS DIVISION: GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY	Noel Gueco	Octo One
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AT A GLANCE

NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

SECOND ROUND

Eastern Conference

(1) Detroit vs. (4) Philadelphia
Pistons 3, Sixers 2
Game 1: Detroit 98, Philadelphia 87
Game 2: Detroit 104, Philadelphia 97
Game 3: Philadelphia 93, Detroit 83
Game 4: Philadelphia 95, Detroit 82
Game 5: Detroit 78, Philadelphia 77
Game 6 at Philadelphia (May 17, 7:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at Detroit (May 19, TBD)

(2) New Jersey vs (6) Boston
Nets 4, Celtics 0
Game : New Jersey 97, Boston 93
Game 2 : New Jersey 104, Boston 95
Game 3: New Jersey 94, Boston 76
Game 4: New Jersey 110, Boston 101
New Jersey wins series, 4-0

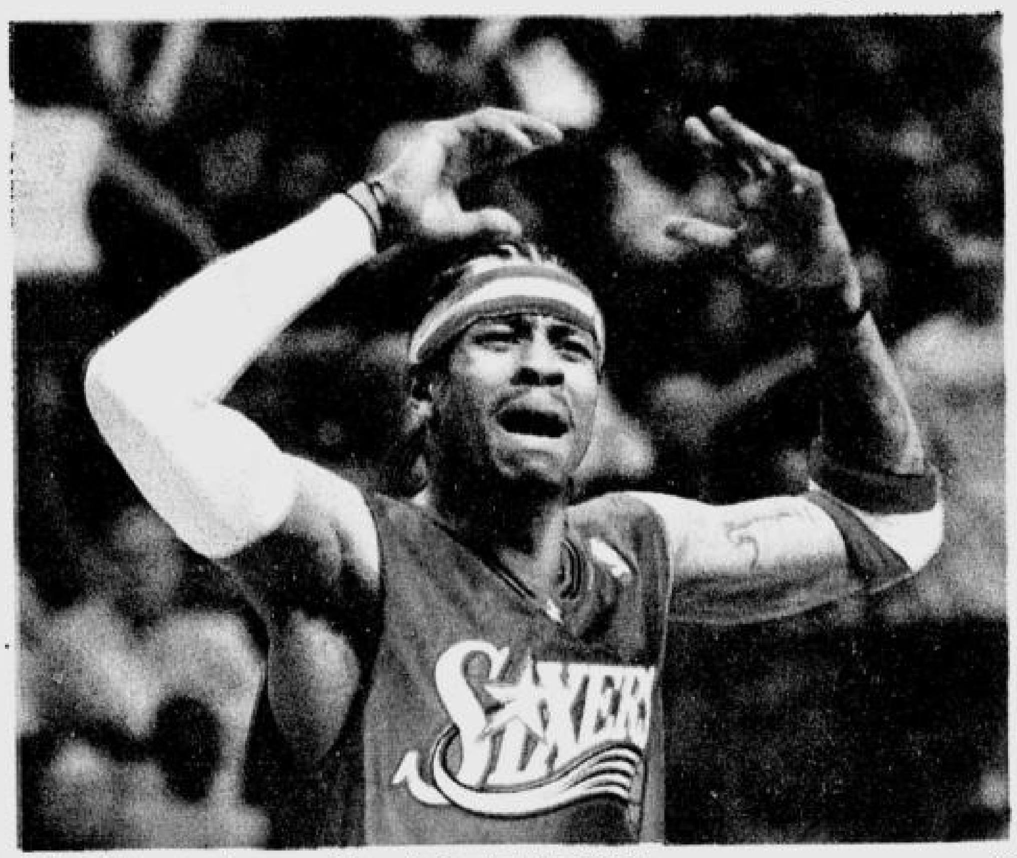
WESTERN CONFERENCE

(1) San Antonio vs (5) LA Lakers
Spurs 3, Lakers 2
Game 1: San Antonio 87, Lakers 82
Game 2: San Antonio 114, Lakers 95
Game 3: Los Angeles 110, San Antonio 95
Game 4: Los Angeles 99, San Antonio 95
Game 5: San Antonio 96, Los Angeles 94
Game 6 at Los Angeles (May 16, 8 a.m.)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (May 18, TBD)

(2) Sacramento vs (3) Dallas
Kings 2, Mavs 3
Game 1: Sacramento 124, Dallas 113
Game 2: Dallas 132, Sacramento 110
Game 3: Dallas 141, Sacramento 137
Game 4: Sacramento 99, Dallas 83
Game 5: Dallas 112, Sacramento 93
Game 6 at Sacramento (May 16, 10:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at Dallas (May 18, TBD)

* If necessary
TBD (To Be Determined)

Pistons on verge of ousting Sixers



IVERSON reacts after committing a foul against the Pistons. AP

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Chucky Atkins' layup with less than a second remaining gave Detroit a 78-77 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday and a 3-2 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

"Just please go in, that's all I was saying," said Atkins, who scored 17 points.

The home team has won every game in the series and Game 6 is Friday night in Philadelphia. Game 7, if necessary, is Sunday at Detroit.

The Pistons have lost 14 of their last 15 playoff road games.

Richard Hamilton said the last thing Detroit wanted to do was face elimination at Philadelphia.

"That was a big motivation for us," said Hamilton, who scored 14 of his 20 points during Detroit's dominant first quarter.

Detroit rookie Tayshaun Prince added 13.

Detroit's Jon Barry said it simply: "If you lose this game you're in big trouble."

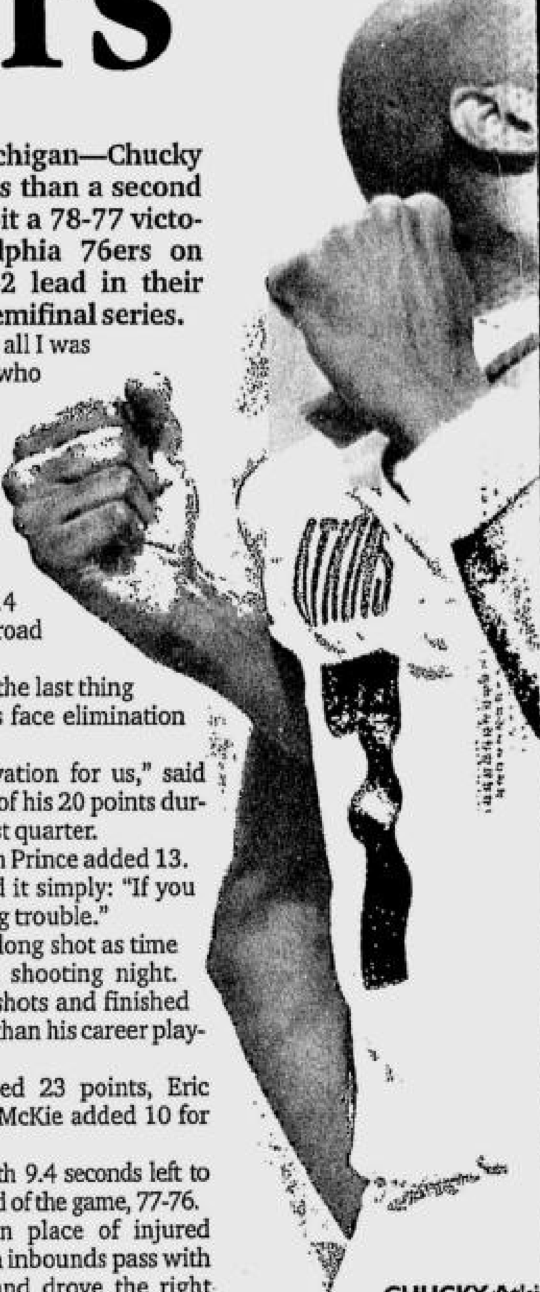
Allen Iverson missed a long shot as time expired to cap an awful shooting night. Iverson missed 20 of 25 shots and finished with 14 points, one more than his career playoff low.

Derrick Coleman scored 23 points, Eric Snow had 16 and Aaron McKie added 10 for the 76ers.

Snow hit a 3-pointer with 9.4 seconds left to give the 76ers their only lead of the game, 77-76.

Atkins, who started in place of injured Chauncey Billups, took an inbounds pass with 3.7 seconds remaining and drove the right side for the winning shot that was in the basket when Coleman knocked it out from below with .9 seconds left.

The Sixers trailed by 14 points early in the game, and by as many as seven early in the third quarter. *AP*



CHUCKY Atki
and teammate
Curry celebrat
the Pistons def
the 76ers, 78-7

Hornets line up 3 candidates for coach

WESTWEGO, Louisiana—Former NBA coaches Mike Fratello, Tim Floyd and Brian Hill are the New Orleans Hornets' top choices to replace Paul Silas.

Vice president of basketball operations Bob Bass named those three as candidates Wednesday. The Hornets want someone who has been a head coach in the league, and Bass said they have not ruled out adding more candidates to their list.

Bass already has spoken with Fratello, a television basketball analyst who formerly coached the Atlanta Hawks and Cleveland Cavaliers. Floyd coached the Chicago Bulls for a little more than three seasons before resigning in December 2001.

Hill, who was let go as a Hornets assistant when Silas was fired May 4, was a head coach with the Orlando Magic and the then-Vancouver Grizzlies.

"We've pretty well decided we wouldn't go with one of the top assistants in the league. We pretty well decided we won't go with a college head coach," Bass said. "We feel like since we have a veteran team and there's a good possibility we'll have all five starters back, we need someone who can hit the floor running right now."

Bass declined to discuss the strengths or weaknesses of each coach, but he did qualify Hill as a "serious" candidate and said it would be unfair to judge Floyd by his 49-190 record in Chicago because he was in a tough situation. *AP*

Staying alive is Kings' aim at home

SACRAMENTO, California—Reality has set in for the Sacramento Kings—they miss Chris Webber big time.

And if they don't do something to improve their defense and scoring output in a hurry, they'll be thinking about it all summer, watching as the Dallas Mavericks advance in a season when the Kings were on a viable quest for the franchise's first NBA title in 52 years.

Sacramento barely fell short in the 2002 Western Conference finals to the three-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers.

The Mavericks lead the best-of-seven second-round series 3-2 heading into Thursday's Game 6 at Arco Arena. If necessary, Game 7 would be back in Dallas on Saturday.

The Mavericks are one win away from reaching the conference finals for only the second time. Last year, Dallas was eliminated in five games by Sacramento in the second round.

Without the injured Webber, the Kings have been inconsistent.

"They have no answers for him," Kings coach Rick Adelman said of the star forward. "I thought we really missed him in the fourth quarter. We had nothing happening. He's the momentum-breaker for us. That's where we miss him, where he can create things when we need them, but he's not here."

Webber has missed the last three games in the series and is expected to sit out the rest of the playoffs should the Kings advance. Webber, the Kings' leader in scoring, rebounding and assists, tore cartilage in his left knee in Game 2 last Thursday in Dallas and the injury will require arthroscopic surgery that will keep him out at least four-to-six weeks.

But Webber is putting off the procedure, hoping to possibly play again this season if the Kings reach the NBA Finals. That seems like a long shot, considering he's been limping around the sidelines in his expensive pinstripe suits.

"Obviously not having Chris is tough," said Kings guard Doug Christie, who's provided the energy the past two games and scored 34 points. "Those are numbers on the stat sheet we need to find a way to replace."

Sacramento blew an early lead in Game 5 with an atrocious third quarter in which the Kings shot just 3-for-25. Their 10 points were the fewest ever by a Dallas opponent in a postseason quarter.

"They came out aggressive (in the third), hit some big shots and that put us on our heels," Christie said. "They were at home and took advantage of that. Now our backs are against the wall."

The Kings have bounced back before in this series.

In Game 4, they calmly executed their game plan — and didn't show any signs of panic — to battle back and even the series at 2-2.

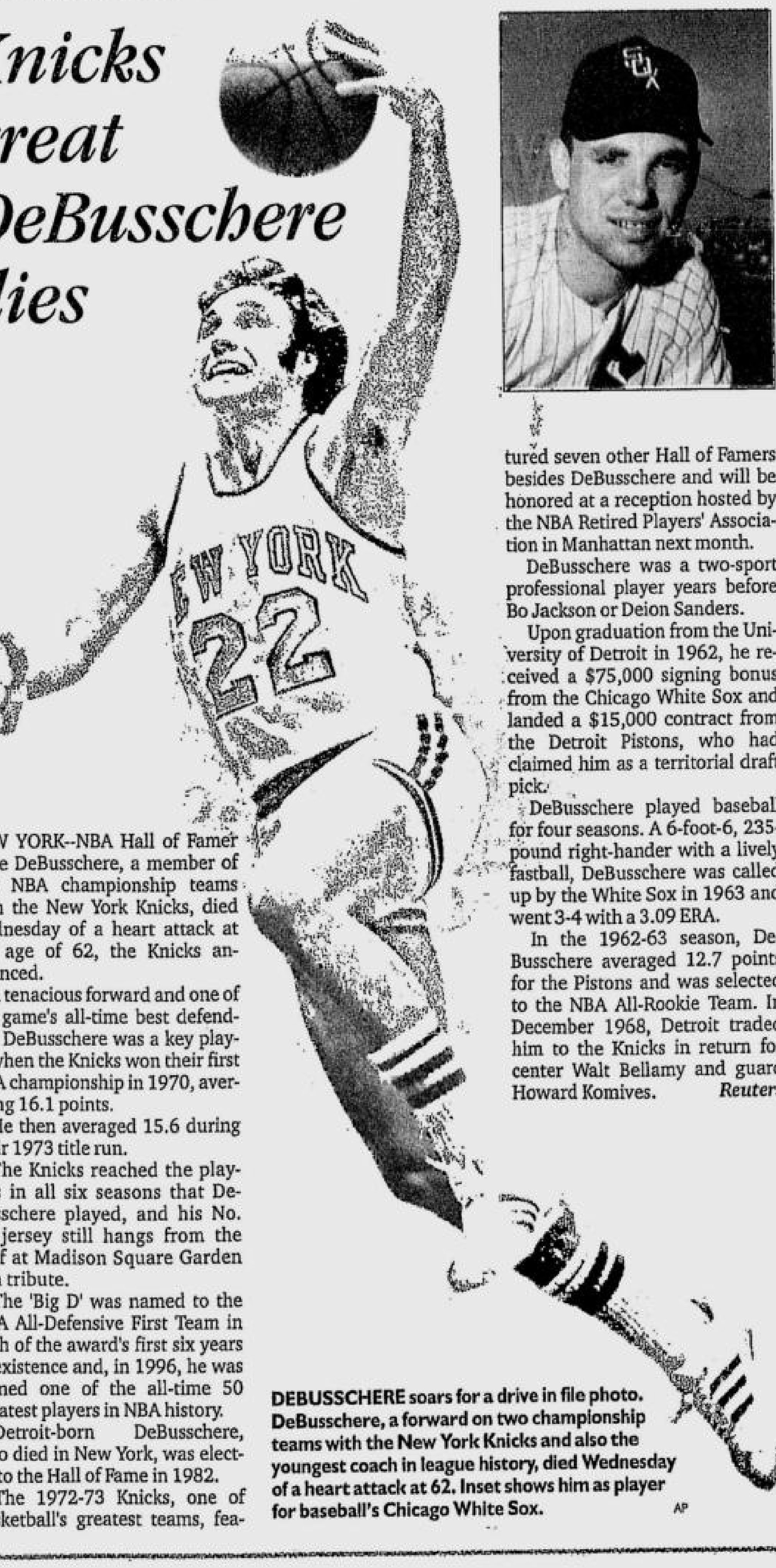
The Mavericks, meanwhile, won't have an easy task playing another game in front of the deafening crowd at Arco. After Thursday's game, the Kings will have sold out 178 straight games, the longest active streak in the league.

The Mavericks survived for a 141-137 double-overtime win in Game 3 on Saturday, then saw all their stars go cold in a 99-83 loss on Sunday.

Dirk Nowitzki, Michael Finley and Steve Nash — who combined for 103 points in Game 2 and 116 in Game 3 — shot just 16-for-55 for 38 points. *AP*

GAME 6 of the Dallas Mavericks-Sacramento Kings NBA Western Conference semifinal series will be shown live on Solar Sports at 10:30 a.m. today with a replay at 9 p.m. The Mavericks lead the series, 3-2.

Knicks great DeBusschere dies



DEBUSSCHERE soars for a drive in file photo. DeBusschere, a forward on two championship teams with the New York Knicks and also the youngest coach in league history, died Wednesday of a heart attack at 62. Inset shows him as player for baseball's Chicago White Sox. AP

NEW YORK--NBA Hall of Famer Dave DeBusschere, a member of two NBA championship teams with the New York Knicks, died Wednesday of a heart attack at the age of 62, the Knicks announced.

A tenacious forward and one of the game's all-time best defenders, DeBusschere was a key player when the Knicks won their first NBA championship in 1970, averaging 16.1 points.

He then averaged 15.6 during their 1973 title run.

The Knicks reached the playoffs in all six seasons that DeBusschere played, and his No. 22 jersey still hangs from the roof at Madison Square Garden as a tribute.

The 'Big D' was named to the NBA All-Defensive First Team in each of the award's first six years of existence and, in 1996, he was named one of the all-time 50 greatest players in NBA history.

Detroit-born DeBusschere, who died in New York, was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1982.

The 1972-73 Knicks, one of basketball's greatest teams, featured seven other Hall of Famers besides DeBusschere and will be honored at a reception hosted by the NBA Retired Players' Association in Manhattan next month.

DeBusschere was a two-sport professional player years before Bo Jackson or Deion Sanders.

Upon graduation from the University of Detroit in 1962, he received a $75,000 signing bonus from the Chicago White Sox and landed a $15,000 contract from the Detroit Pistons, who had claimed him as a territorial draft pick.

DeBusschere played baseball for four seasons. A 6-foot-6, 235-pound right-hander with a lively fastball, DeBusschere was called up by the White Sox in 1963 and went 3-4 with a 3.09 ERA.

In the 1962-63 season, DeBusschere averaged 12.7 points for the Pistons and was selected to the NBA All-Rookie Team. In December 1968, Detroit traded him to the Knicks in return for center Walt Bellamy and guard Howard Komives. *Reuters*

Kiko Calilan, nat'l coach; 80

FORMER national player and national coach Francisco "Kiko" Calilan died yesterday. He was 80.

Calilan mentored the Jose Rizal College Heavy Bombers for 33 years and won five NCAA championships. He was a member of the Philippine basketball team which won the gold medal in the 1951 Asian Games in India and was national coach of the 1975 RP team to the ABC championship in Bangkok.

His body lies at the family residence on P. Burgos Street, Paco, Manila.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: Spurs vs Lakers, Game 6; 8 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.); Star Sports - San Antonio attempts to show LA the door at the Staples Center.

Kings vs Mavericks, Game 6; 10:30 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.); Solar Sports - Dallas seeks to advance to its first conference finals since 1988, but Sacramento will do everything to force a rubber match on Sunday.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying; 7:55 p.m.; Star Sports - F1 action shifts into high gear in Austria as drivers battle for pole position in Sunday's race.

GOLF: LPGA Michelob Light Open; 2 p.m.; ESPN - Watch how Jennifer Rosales comes up with a sterling performance in this event held in Virginia.

Byron Nelson Classic; 5:30 p.m. (r); Star Sports - The world's top golfers gear up in this tournament in preparation for next month's US Open.

Deutsche Bank - SAP Open; 11:15 p.m.; NBN 4 - 156 of the world's top players led by Tiger Woods compete in this European Golf Tournament

TENNIS: Hamburg Masters; 12 noon, 1:30 p.m. and midnight; Star Sports - It's down to the sweet sixteen in Deutschland.

POOL: Rack 'Em Up 2; 8 a.m. (r - 1 p.m.) and 7 p.m.; ESPN - American Earl "the Pearl" Strickland matches up against Django Bustamante and Bata Reyes, respectively.

BOWLING: Aviva Asian Bowling Tour; 9 a.m. (r); ESPN - Men's Highlights of the Malaysian leg are featured in today's program.

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s (left)
Michael
e after
eated
V. REUTERS

Go Annika, peers cheer

LONDON--Some are envious, some are full of admiration and some are just a little scared that she might blow it when she challenges the men.

What is clear, though, is that every one of Annika Sorenstam's LPGA peers holds an opinion about the Swede's appearance at next week's Colonial tournament, where she will become the first woman to play a PGA Tour event since 1945.

Britain's Laura Davies, who has played in several specially staged events alongside the men, says she would have relished the chance to compete on the PGA Tour when at the peak of her own powers in the mid-1990s.

"I'm 100 percent behind Annika," said Davies, one of the biggest hitters in the women's game.

"Nowadays, she (Sorenstam) definitely hits it long enough and I think she will do well. In fact, if she got the chance to play in 10 or 12 (PGA Tour events), I'm sure she would have a chance to win at least one." Pak Se Ri, Sorenstam's closest rival on the LPGA Tour, is also green with envy.

"For sure, one day I'd love to have the chance to play on the PGA Tour," said the South Korean. "I'd like the chance to see how good the men really are.

"I'm right behind her. Annika wants to challenge herself and she's earned the right after the way she has played over the last couple of years."

But Karrie Webb is not quite so enthusiastic.

"I would never want to do it," said the Australian, who ruled women's golf before the Sorenstam takeover in 2001.

"I wouldn't want to attract that sort of attention to myself and I also feel I have enough challenges and enough pressure playing on the LPGA.

"But if Annika wants to do it, this is certainly the right time for her. And I think Colonial is a good choice of course, it's not overlong and should suit her game." While Sorenstam says her decision to accept the invitation has nothing to do with striking a blow for feminism, there are some who fear that, if she performs poorly, it will reflect badly on the LPGA Tour.

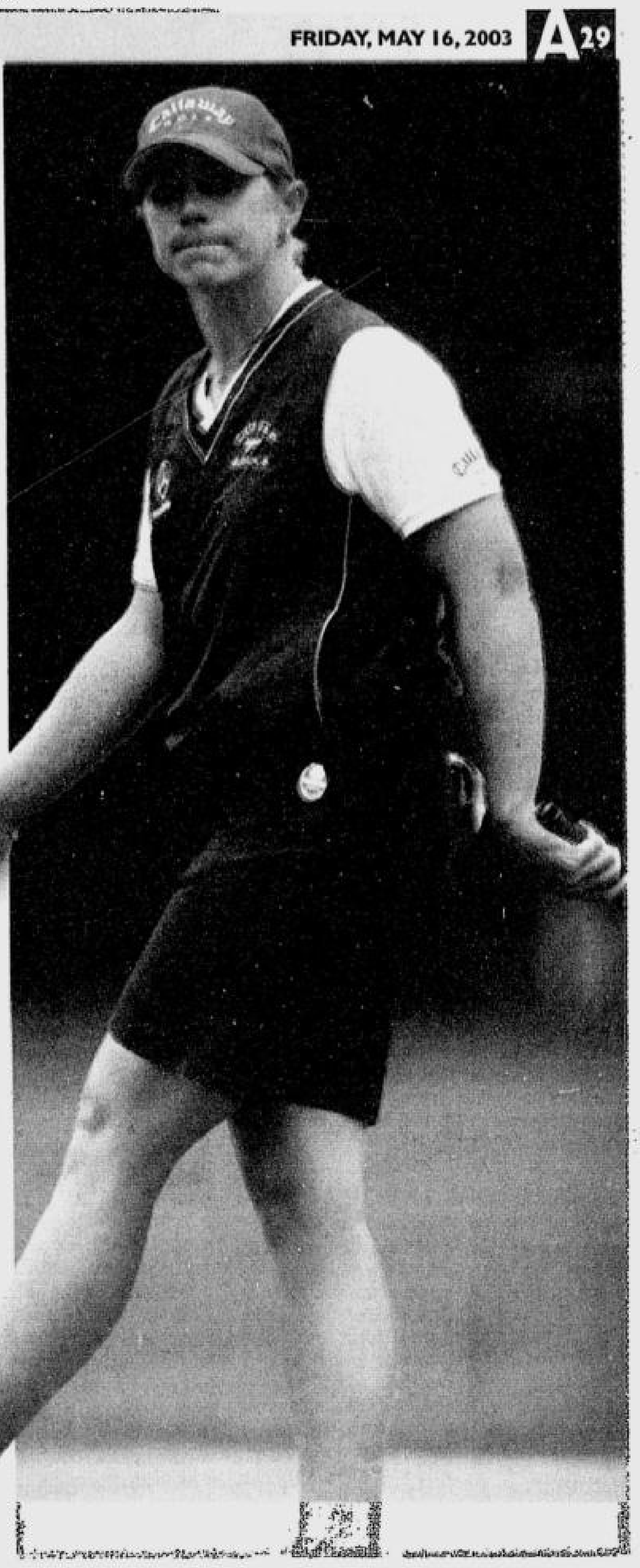
Many are also disappointed that the Swede chose a date that clashes with an LPGA event.

While Sorenstam hogs the limelight at the Colonial in Forth Worth, Texas, from May 22 to 25, her week-to-week colleagues will be struggling to gain a fraction of the interest at the Corning Classic in New York.

Sweden's Catrin Nilsmark, Europe's Solheim Cup Captain and someone who has known Sorenstam since her junior playing days, believes it will be a great achievement if her compatriot survives the halfway cut at the Colonial.

"It will be very tough and will be a fantastic effort if she makes the cut," she said. "But Annika has amazed me so often in the past that, really, nothing she does surprises me any more." Sorenstam, who concedes she has been overwhelmed by the level of interest in her Colonial appearance and describes the last three months as 'crazy', says all reaction has so far been favourable.

Reuters



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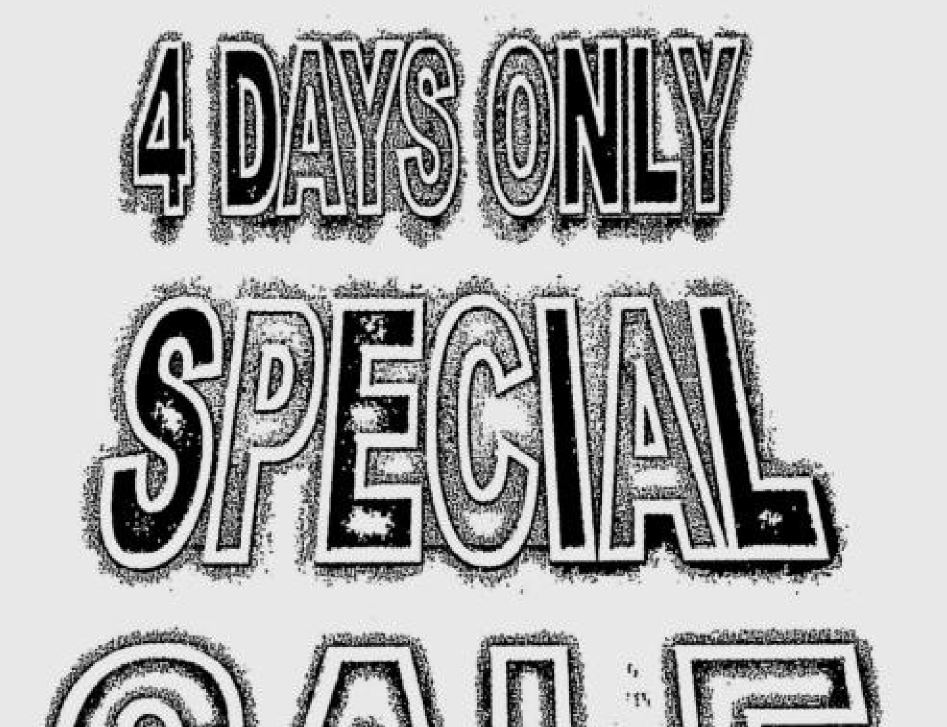

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SPORTSWATCH

Redmanizers Scoop guests

MEMBERS of the 1976 and 1983 Philippine Basketball Association grand slam champion Redmanizers led by William "Bogs" Adornado, Fortunato "Atoy" Co, Alberto "Abet" Guidaben, Philip Cezar and Freddie Hubalde, Most Valuable Players all, have been invited to grace today's session of the SCOOP sa Kamayan at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Ave. in Quezon City. Also invited are Tito Varela, Rudy Soriano, Cris Calilan, Bernard Fabiosa, Gregorio Dionisio, David Cezar, Rey Franco and Rey Pages of the 1976 fame and Arturo "Bay" Cristobal, Elpidio Villamin, Ramon Cruz, Federico Israel, Co, Guidaben, Cezar, Hubalde, Fabiosa, Soriano and Varela of the 1983 grand slam team. SCOOP members and the former Redmanizers are joining the family of the late Danny Floro, Crispa owner and team manager, in commemorating his 81st birthday. Bones Floro, grandson of the Floro patriarch by son Dave, will represent the family in the session.

Marave, Goddard win

PEPON Marave of Shell Casino Filipino Team Toms and Mark Goddard of Castrol Ambi Pur Car Team Goddard shone by ruling races 1 and 2, respectively, of the Asian Formula 3 Series 2003 recently at the Subic International Raceway. Marave, 37, beat former champion Jojo Silverio and Goddard in the first race to win his first AF3 title in the event sponsored by Pagcor Sports, Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority, PCSO, Smart Addict, Mirante, Pepsi, Gatorade, Yokohama Tires, Denso and Regional Container Lines. Goddard, meanwhile, took advantage of Marave's absence in race 2 to prevail. The Promotions class for cars built before 2000 was won by Mike Potenciano of Team Shell Casino Filipino. Roland Hermoso of Speedtech Asia finished second, while his teammate, the Adidas-sponsored JP Tuason, wound up third. Enzo Pastor, the 2002 Asian Formula Renault champion Enzo Pastor sat it out for the weekend after his engine inexplicably seized during practice.

Parks to coach Spring

PARKS

SEVEN-TIME PBA best import Bobby Parks hopes to impart what he knows to his players when Spring Cooking Oil competes in the NBL (National Basketball League) national championship starting on May 24 in Ozamiz City. Parks, a longtime Philippine resident, assumed the head coaching job for Spring this year after recovering from an ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) injury he sustained while reinforcing the Cooking Oil Masters last year. "We are confident of doing well in the NBL," said team owner and NBL vice president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla of Spring Oil, which is representing Bulacan in the regional cagefest. *Roy Luarca*

Karting back Sunday

THE THIRD leg of the 2003 Shell Super Karting Series resumes at the Carmona Racing Circuit this Sunday with Michelle Bumgarner, J.P. Tuason, Blake Go, Matthew Edmunds, Marty Aguilar and Paco Rodriguez favored to keep the lead in their respective categories. Bumgarner, the only female driver in the registry, seeks a fitting follow-up to her smashing win in the second leg held in Cebu City last April 27 and keeps the overall lead in the centerpiece open category against first-leg winner Dado Pena, Matteo Guidecelli, Allan Uy and Philip Alvendia. For details, call Rose or Marge of Carmona Circuit Phils. at 817-2241.

Bombers vs Knights

THE FILIPINO-INDIAN Basketball League (FIBL) still has a regular playing day left in the elimination round, but for all intents and purposes, the cast in the championship has already been finalized with the The Bombay Bombers and defending champion Knights will collide in a best-of-three series for the FIBL championship starting May 25 at the Makati Coliseum. In making it to the final, the Bombers whipped the Hoop It Up Kings, 93-77, while the Knights thrashed the Titans, 97-69, last week. The Bombers led all the way in posting their fifth straight victory in as many outings. The Knights and the Bombers will still meet at 5 p.m. this Sunday (May 18) to end the qualifying round but it has already become a no-bearing game. The Kings play the Titans at 3 p.m.

Alabang 5 prevails

AYALA Alabang Village beat Corinthian Garden, 79-67, to capture the Nike Battlegrounds championship recently. Allan Urcia and MVP Gian Nazario powered the Jeff Go-coached Ayala to the victory. Rely San Agustin, Nike marketing communications executive awarded the trophies and prizes. Also gracing the championship were cagers Dennis Espino and Jeffrey Cariaso, as well as coach Alfrancis Chua. Urcia, Nazario, teammates Mark Victor and Anthony How made it to the Mythical 5 along with Corinthians' Inductivo. Jon De Obago, also of Ayala, was named top defender.

Derby race heats up

THE PASAY City Cockpit Association, now recognized by derby aficionados because of it's highly-organized events, will hold the PCCA Championship at 7 tonight with 54 fights on tap. Sponsored by Sagupaan B-50 Forten (anti-stress), Sagupaan Mite Free Shampoo and Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, the derby presents the fight for the PCCA Cocker of the Year 2003, according to pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. Vice-Gov. Mario Espinosa and tabloid executive Rey Briones (RB Islander, 17 points) lead the pack after seven derbies. For other details, contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Bacolor hosts 4-cocker

A BIG cast is expected when the second edition of "Laban-Laban sa Bacolor 4-Cock Derby" fires off on May 31 at the New Bacolor Cockpit Arena in San Fernando, Pampanga. Hosts are young businessmen-sportsmen Edwin Jingco and Joel Fernando, who will be assisted by Madlambayan Brothers, Jingco Brothers, Ucap Cocker of the Year Jet Fernando and friends from Ucap and NCA. Entry fee is P11,000. Submission of weights is on derby day, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon.

EMPIRE MAKER OUT

Funny Cide Preakness favorite

BALTIMORE, Maryland—Kentucky Derby winner Funny Cide was installed the 7-5 morning-line favorite for the Preakness Stakes after Wednesday's draw.

Funny Cide will be in stall nine near the outside in a 10-horse field for Saturday's 128th running of the race–the second leg of US horse racing's Triple Crown.

Tight turns at Pimlico racecourse can sometimes make it difficult to pass in the 1 3/16th-mile race, but the small field lessens the hazard.

Funny Cide will be ridden again by Jose Santos, exonerated on Monday after suggestions he may have been carrying an illegal device in his whip hand at Churchill Downs.

The 12-1 shot became the first gelding to win the Kentucky Derby since 1929, upsetting favorite Empire Maker with Peace Rules back in third.

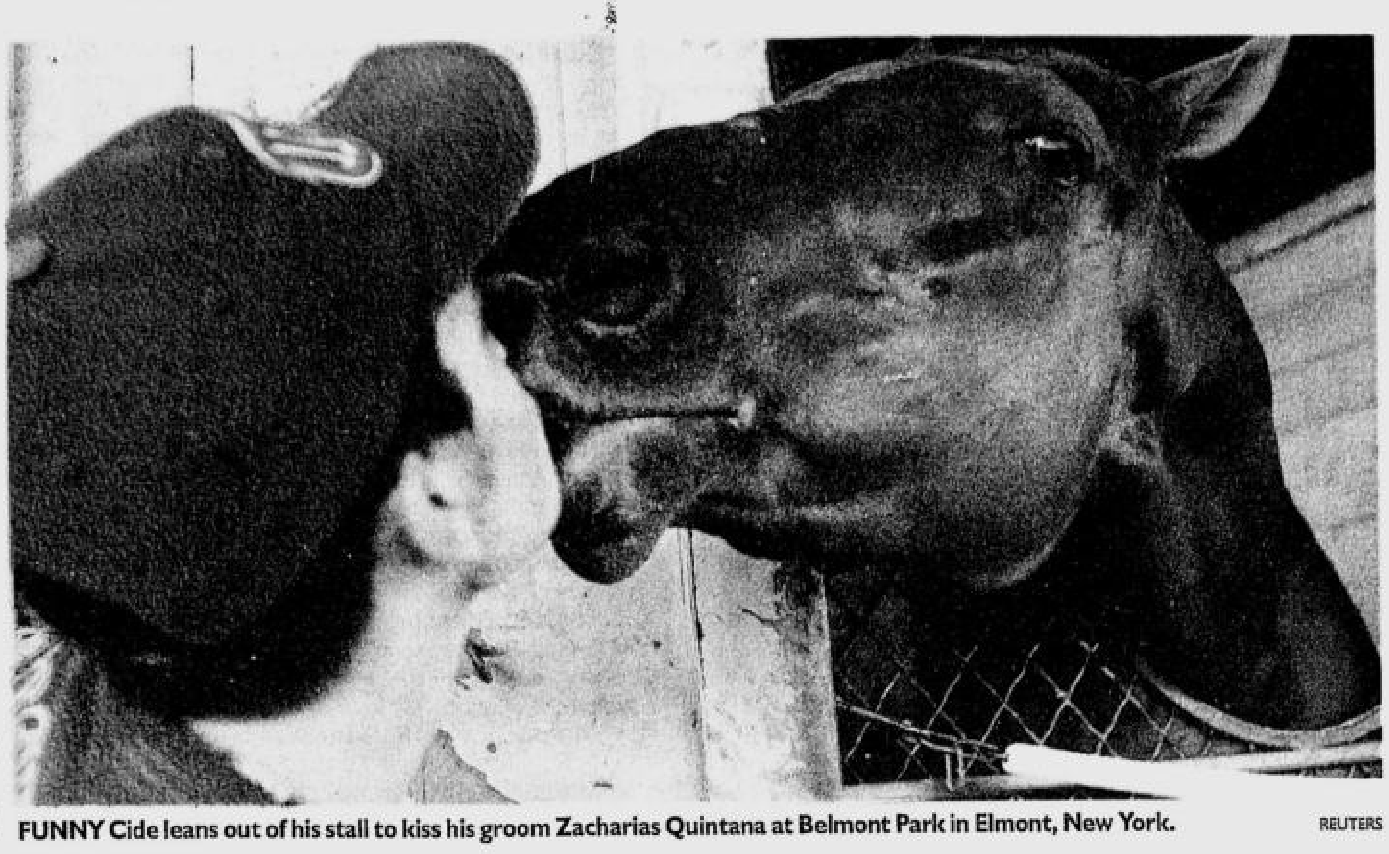
Empire Maker misses the Preakness but Peace Rules will break from the seventh post and is 8-5 second choice with the experienced Edgar Prado aboard.

Trainer Bob Baffert, who has won the Preakness four times including the last two years with Point Given and War Emblem, will be represented by Senor Swinger, winner of a grade three race the day before the Kentucky Derby.

Oddsmakers have the colt at 5-1 along with Scrimshaw. Both horses are owned by Robert and Beverly Lewis who have had huge success in Triple Crown races since 1997, winning six times.

Scrimshaw, trained by D. Wayne Lukas, who has five Preakness victories to his credit, ran a modest 11th in the Kentucky Derby behind eighth-placed stable companion Ten Cents A Shine.

But neither enjoyed the best of runs and both are expected to do better on Saturday. *Reuters*


FUNNY Cide leans out of his stall to kiss his groom Zacharias Quintana at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York. REUTERS

Summer racing festival at Santa Ana, San Lazaro

THE PHILIPPINE Racing Commission yesterday unveiled the "3+3 Philracom Summer Racing Festival" slated May 14-22 alternately at the Santa Ana Park in Makati and San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Designed to boost the races during the summer season, the event offers additional prizes for winners and placers, as well as, cash incentives for top performing jockeys and trainers.

"We launched this summer racefest to liven up horse racing activity during these so-called lean months of racing and enhance public patronage of the races," said Philracom Chair Jimmy Dilag.

Dilag also announced that going into the first quarter of year, total wager sales in local racing has amounted to more than P1.8-billion, while corresponding revenue contribution to the government was already in excess of P277.4 million.

All of the scheduled Class Division Races throughout the six-week festival will be no-bearing, no-effect match-ups carrying additional prize money of P10,000 each from the Philracom and a counterpart prize from the host club.

Meanwhile, all jockeys and trainers will also have their respective cash incentives of P15,000, P10,000 and P5,000, from first to third place respectively.

Dilag was joined by commissioners Vergel Cruz, Eduardo Domingo, Jr., Felizardo Sevilla, Jr., Rogelio Tandamia, Francis Trillana, Jr. and executive director Eduardo Jose during yesterday's launching.

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Race 2—1. Golden West/Brainchild 2. Real Material 3. Classic Native 4. Impromptu 5. Dulce My Love

Race 3—1. Demolition Jack 2. Very Sharp 3. Inner Silence 4. Ray Moon

Race 4—1. Kokopelli 2. Music Express 3. Top Most 4. Loose Cannon 5. Dragon Heart

Race 5—1. Slew's Pleasure 2. Exchange Deal 3. Golden Prince 4. Astronaut 5. Main Street

Race 6—1. Sunny Sky 2. Decathlete 3. Santa Fe

Race 7—1. Strong Lady 2. Golden Tale 3. Si Isidro Ko 4. Brenda Starr 5. Remarkable

Race 8—1. Noble House 2. Flying Fortress 3. Pep Talk 4. Courage

Race 9—1. Doctor Steve 2. Hezabellagio 3. King Fisher 4. Firenze Rose 5. Saint Michael 6. Diva/Well Noted

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Tour's 'Saluyot Brigade' makes waves

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—The triumph of Pozorrubio, Pangasinan native Arnel Quirimit in the recently concluded Tour Pilipinas 2003 presented by Air 21 signaled the return of the famed "Saluyot Brigade" that dominated the country's multi-stage cycling event for years.

The moniker "Saluyot Brigade" was given to Pangasinan cyclists because of their fondness for the nutritious *saluyot* and because this is an inexpensive vegetable that local cyclists, most of them poor, could afford during the backbreaking road tour from Bicol to Northern Luzon.

Local Government Undersecretary Alipio Fernandez Jr., who patronized the tour during its heydays in the 1970s and 1980s, said the local cyclists usually eat *saluyot* and fish *paksiw*, the poor man's meal.

But the lowly *saluyot* could be what spinach is to Popeye—the "energy food" for the hardy cyclists, most of them unemployed and who had to depend on the summer races for a little income.

Fidel Ginez, head of the Agno flood control project in Pangasinan and who sponsors local races each summer, said cyclists' lives are difficult because they do not get any support from the government.

"Everyday, they are on the road, riding their bikes. They wait for races to be held, such as during fiestas and other local events," he said.

He sponsored the Fidel Ginez Cycling Classic on April 20, or five days before the Tour Pilipinas hit the road, so local riders, like Quirimit, will have some pocket money for the 16-day tour.

Quirimit, 27, won the local race and received the P8,000 top prize.

Ginez also gives money to cyclists who seek his financial help.

Two-time tour champion Jesus Garcia Jr.of Mangaldan said people like Ginez and Fernandez are the reasons Pangasinan has produced at least 15 cycling champions since the initial staging of the summer road spectacle in the late 1950s.

Garcia, 57, Tour of Luzon champion in 1972 and 1977, has directed at least 100 races in Pangasinan.

He also credited former Pangasinan Governors Aguedo Agbayani, Rafael Colet and Oscar Orbos, all of them cycling fanatics, for helping local riders. Garcia said these officials sponsored local races when they were governors.

"They regularly sponsored cycling tours and offered good prizes so the cyclists had good preparation before the big events," Garcia said.

"It is because of this abundance of races and cyclists that we have more potential champions," he said.

Garcia said another factor that could have contributed to the Pangasinan cyclists' success is their physical and psychological strength.

"Of course they wanted to earn money, too," he added.

But whatever the reason is, Pangasinenses, who have made cycling their favorite sport, are in a state of bliss these days.

The reason, of course, is the crown now on Quirimit's head.

When the 15-lap Tour Pilipinas 2003 was staged this year, the Pangasinan cyclists made sure they were in perfect forms to bring the tour trophy back to the province.

"The Pangasinan cyclists really rallied behind Quirimit," said Garcia, who acted as consultant to the riders.

"I asked them to support him because he was our hope to bring home the crown and happily, they cooperated. During the last two laps, they 'screened' him from other cyclists who want to derail his impending victory," Garcia said.

Quirimit skippered the Tanduay team. Most of its members came from Pangasinan.

Garcia said it was a Pangasinense—the late lawyer Gerry Lacuesta of Bayambang—who introduced cycling into the national consciousness in 1956.

Lacuesta, known as the "Father of Philippine Cycling," was stabbed and killed in November 1983 in a dispute involving the Mangabul fishery reservation in his hometown.

"It is so sad that the case is still unresolved after 20 years," INQUIRER sports columnist Al Mendoza, who wrote an investigative piece on the killing, said.

Garcia said Pangasinan cyclists started harvesting tour titles in 1957, or a year after the Tour of Luzon started its run.

QUIRIMIT

Gonz' lament

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT is good enough to see the return of multi-stage cycling. It is bad enough to see its resurrection bugged with one loophole too many.

This is not an attempt to flatten the Tour Pilipinas, nor douse it with spill-causing pail of tirades. I have raised glasses to Bert Lina in salute to his gargantuan efforts at reviving summer's most revered spectacle.

I love cycling. As I keep saying, first it was cycling for me before basketball came along. And then golf. Puppy love, if you wish. Name me a Pangasinense who hasn't fallen in love with cycling at one time or another. If you can show me one, I bet you that one isn't a full-bloodied Panggalatok. Or that one may have been merely transplanted to Ilocandia from a non-cycling planet like Nonoy Marcelo's Dagalandia.

That is why I can't stand it whenever I see a dent on the Tour, whether minor or not.

For example, why was it almost a must for the name of teams in the last Tour to be emphasized more than the name of the cyclists entered? Which is more important, the cyclist or the team?

A Tour can run even with only cyclists around; teams are but decorations. Cyclists practically own the Tour, never the teams. When Lloyd Reynante, the son of the illustrious two-time champion Manuel "Maui" Reynante, was asked about his chances of winning, his quick reply was: "I am not after the individual honors. I am here for my team."

What twisted logic.

Were our cyclists coached to say that? I mean, did team owners give strict orders to their cyclists to fight for team interests and not for individual glory?

I believe so. The team champion's purse could be the reason: P1 million. The individual winner pocketed "only" P200,000.

So, has the Tour gone from glory to gory?

Glory is priceless and belongs to one who achieves it using skills, talent and the right values.

Gory it is when one surrenders glory in the name of money. That's like selling one's soul to the devil in exchange for fame. Not lasting.

Of course, it is always important that a cyclist win a cash bonanza at the end of the Tour. The punishment a cyclist absorbs while on the road is usually so cruel the prize he wins does not normally compensate his efforts.

The cyclist is what makes the Tour. It's the cyclist who carries the Tour's image. Never a team. It's been that way since time immemorial. From Arzala to Abaquita, from Gabot to Garcia, from De Guzman to Dequito, from Rimarim to Rivas, from Cuison to Quirimit, it's been always the cyclist who is at the forefront of things. He is the Tour's perennial FPJ, never the KJ.

Gonzalo Duque, my lawyer-friend who is president of the prestigious Lyceum Northwestern University in Dagupan City (Pangasinan), has a more apt observation: "If team owners want their products to be advertised, fine. But they should do it more subtly, though. Lost in the last Tour was not only the thrill of seeing the cyclists battle for glory, but also the roots of the cyclists. That's because teams were given more importance than the cyclists. As a result, Quirimit the champion was known more as a Tanduay skipper than as a Pangasinense. I suggest that in the future, Quirimit should be known as captain of Tanduay-Pangasinan so that his Panggalatok roots will not be drowned out by agents of purely scheming capitalists."

I couldn't agree more.

I am not against business corporations entering the Tour per se. What I'm against is when moneyed groups ride on the backs of hapless cyclists to advance their interests more than those of the real heroes of one of sports' most cruel contests.

Enough of crass commercialism, please. Long live the cyclists, the true champions of the Tour.

Hey, Pareng Bert (Lina), can we raise a glass to that, to my puppy love, too?

MAJOR LEAGUES

Expos pitcher scores 1st win

SAN FRANCISCO—Claudio Vargas pitched into the ninth inning for his first major league victory and the Montreal Expos sent the San Francisco Giants to their fifth straight loss, 6-3 on Wednesday.

Ron Calloway and Jeff Liefer homered, and Vladimir Guerrero hit a two-run single in a five-run seventh for the Expos (25-15), who moved 10 games over .500 for the first time since finishing the 1996 season at 88-74.

Montreal swept a series in San Francisco for the first time since 1995 and have won six of eight at Pacific Bell Park. The Giants are on their longest skid since dropping eight straight in May 2000.

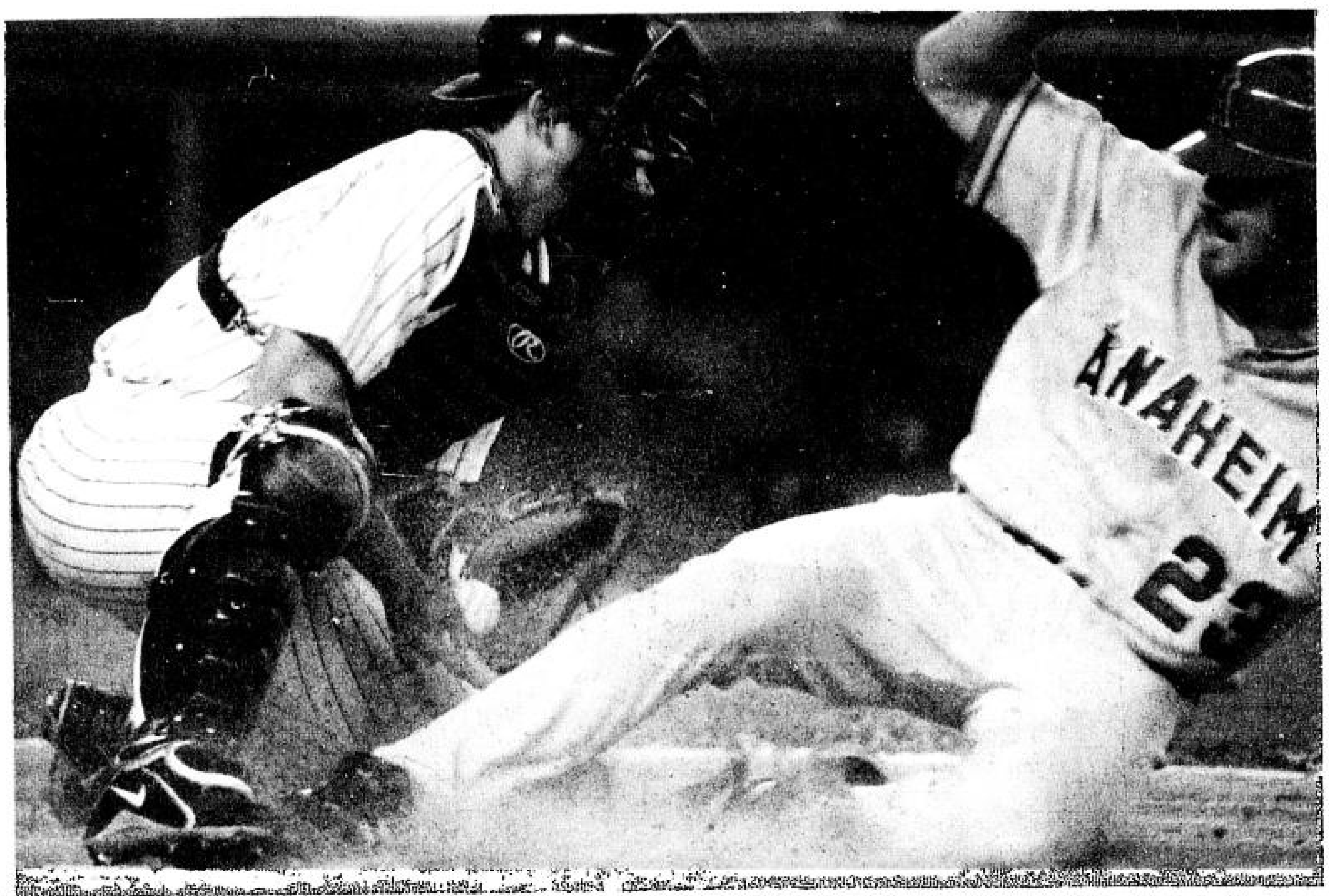
The 23-year-old Vargas (1-1) outpitched fellow rookie Jesse Foppert (2-3), who had won his previous two outings.

Rockies 6, Mets 5

In Denver, Chris Stynes hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning and Larry Walker hit a two-run single in a five-run fifth to lead Colorado.

Charles Johnson started the go-ahead rally with a walk in the eighth inning against Mike Stanton (2-3). One out later, pinch-runner Gabe Kapler moved to second on a wild pitch. Stynes then singled to left with two outs to give the Rockies the lead.

One day after rallying from seven runs down to win, Colorado fell behind 2-0 in the first inning on Mike Piazza's third homer in the past two days before scoring five runs in the fifth against Jae Seo.



ANAHEIM Angels' Scott Spiezo slides into home as New York Yankees catcher Jorge Posada tries to make the tag during the seventh inning Wednesday at Yankee Stadium. Spiezo was safe at home and helped the Angels defeat the Yankees 5-3. AP

Blu shows its true color

By Dennis U. Eroa

AFTER a forgettable stint in the eliminations, Blu Star Detergent is finally showing its true color in the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Last placer at the end of the eliminations, Blu yesterday made a major move toward the semifinals via the backdoor, edging the ICTSI Archers, 71-70, for the top position in Pool B.

Blu will meet Pool A winner Viva Mineral Water tomorrow. Viva beat LBC-Batangas, 80-71, in the second game to claim the twice-to-beat incentive in the playoff for the last semifinal berth.

"We responded to the challenge," said Blu mentor Leo Isaac. "Our intensity did not waver."

Indeed, the Detergent Kings showed the old fearsome form which gave them back-to-back PBL Visayas-Mindanao titles. Touted as one of the pre-season favorites, Blu played an awesome fourth quarter which saw them erase a 10-point deficit, 54-64.

Credit that victory to the hot-shooting trio of Eric de la Cuesta, John Prior and Rey Mendez and the seldom-heard Melvin Taguines, whose two defensive stops in the dying seconds preserved Blu's victory.

"Everybody worked hard. The team had too much pride to lose this game. But it's still a long way to go and we have to keep the winning spirit," said Blu team owner and PBL chair Dioceldo Sy.

A triple by newcomer Alex Hernandez triggered a 10-2 run, capped by De la Cuesta's trey as the Detergent Kings moved to within 64-66, 3:15 remaining.

Manny Ramos' layup kept ICTSI afloat, but that turned out to be the Archers' last taste of the lead as the Detergent Kings continued the pressure.

As ICTSI fell into a series of errors, Roland Pascual scored on an undergoal stab, Mendez on a jumper and De la Cuesta completed a steal off Bruce Dacia to install Blu on top, 70-68, 1:06 left.

SCORES:

BLU STAR 71—De la Cuesta 14, Prior 13, Mendez 12, Gamboa 9, Pascual 6, Lopez 4, Galumbato 4, Hernandez 3, Garcia 3, Taguines 3.

ICTSI 70—Cardona 18, Dacia 16, Aldeguer 8, Yeo 7, Ferrer 5, Thoss 5, Ramos 4, Villanueva 3, Uy 2, De Jesus 0, Jose 0.

Quarters: 27-19, 43-45, 49-55, 71-70

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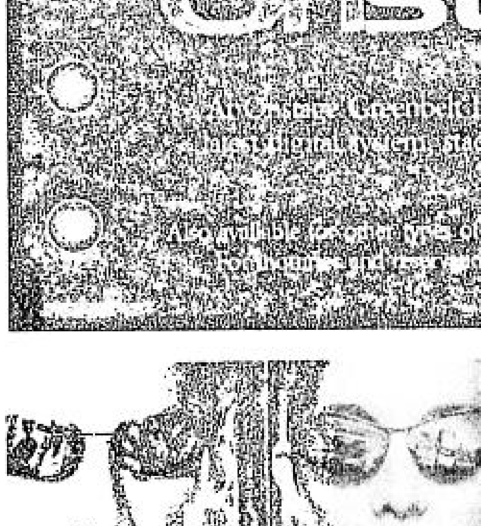

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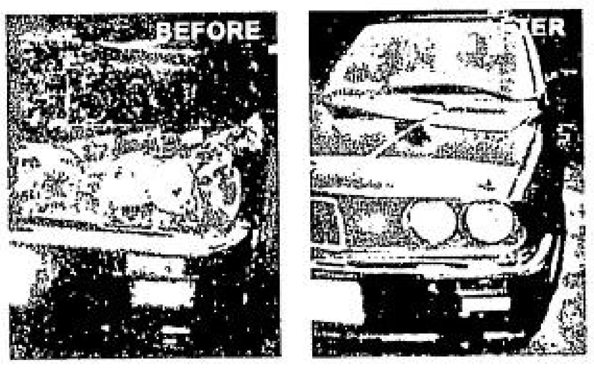

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SPORTS

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Assistant Editor
Edwin M. Villanueva

Champ lives another day

Delariarte survives Rates challenge in 22 holes

By Jong Arcano

Today's Matches

7 a.m. J. Delariarte vs. E. Vinluan, 7:08 J. Pagunsan vs. R. Torrecampo, 7:16 R. Sangil vs. P. Iñigo, 7:24 M. Dumandan vs. T. Manotoc, 7:32 B. Saragoza vs. G. Bondoc, 7:40 T. Asistio vs. M. Bibat, 7:48 N. Negrido vs. IG Gutierrez, 7:56 J. Bayron vs. M. Alejandro

BY the skin of his teeth, Jerome Delariarte got to live another day as the defending champion dodged the upset ax of Jonard Rates in 22 holes yesterday in the first match play round of the Philippine amateur golf championship at the Riviera's Langer course.

The top-seeded Delariarte's head was already on the chopping block when the diminutive Rates, holder of the national intercaddies crown, stood over a winning four-foot putt for par on the 18th hole of regulation play.

But Rates' sidehiller hardly even touched the hole and allowed Delariarte to send the match into an extension. They halved the first three holes and when the duel came to the 22nd hole–the par-3 fourth–Delariarte only had to hit his tee-shot into the green and that was it.

Rates found the right bunker with his tee-shot, blasted over the green then pitched short before conceding the match in a sorry end to a courageous battle by the man who grabbed the 32nd and last berth in the two-day qualifier.

In the other matches, Boyet Saragoza and Michael Bibat provided the early fireworks by booting out their fancied rivals. Tommy Manotoc made an auspicious return to the match play battles and four jungolfers threatened to turn the event into a kids party.

Saragoza, ranked 31st, bundled out the second seed Dave Hernandez, 1 up after 19 holes, and Bibat, seeded 23rd, shot down DHL Open champion and 10th seed Abe Rosal with a convincing 3 and 2 victory.

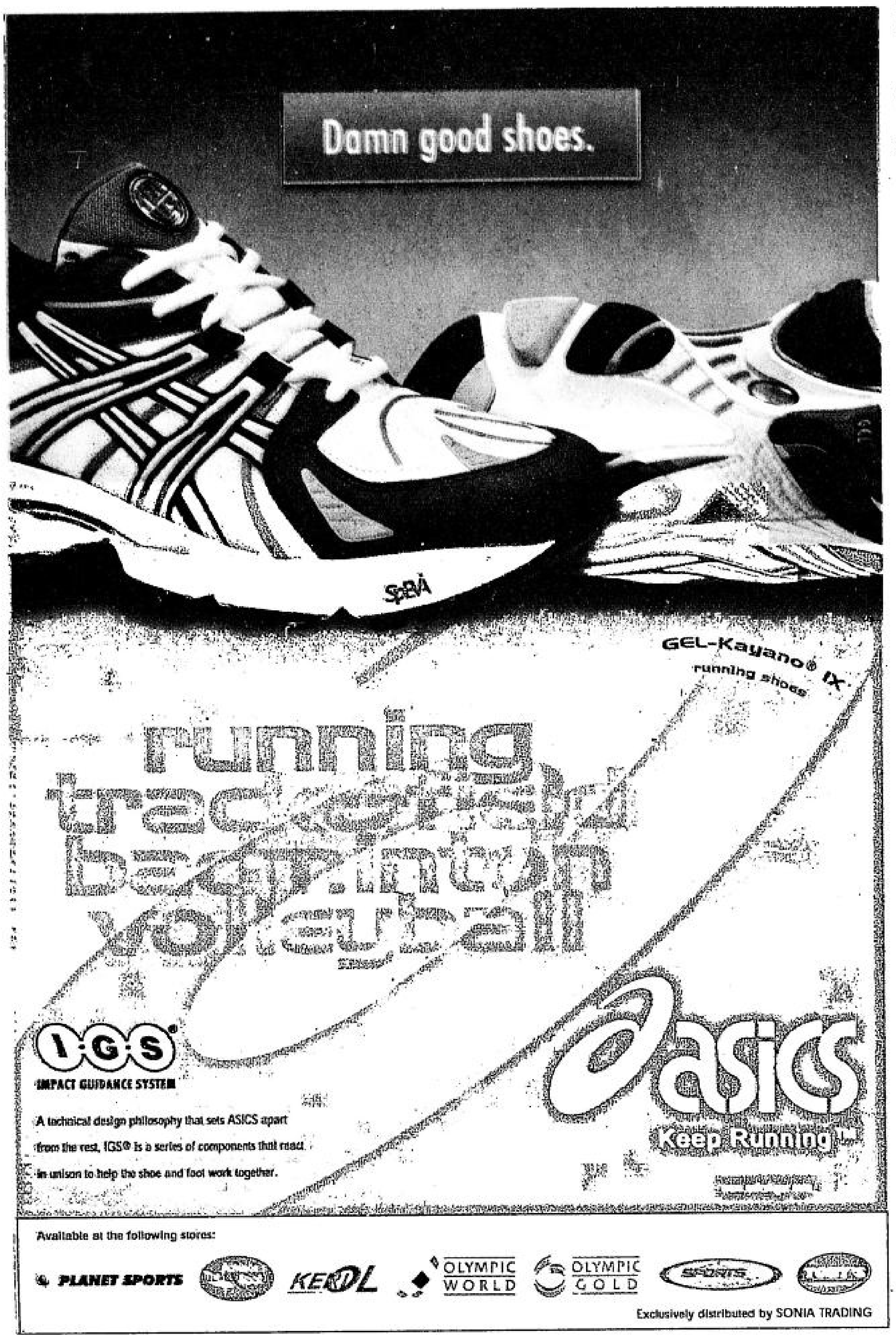
Contrary to expectations that he would default his match, Manotoc showed up to face the young King Steihmeier and easily advanced into today's second round where he will meet Marvin Dumandan, 5 and 4 victor over Yayi Escuadro.

It was a different player, Lyndon Barril, who defaulted and gave club bet Pepot Iñigo a free ticket to the Round-of-16.

Jungolfers Nonoy Negrido, IG Gutierrez, Miko Alejandro and Tonton Asistio also hurdled their opening assignments. Negrido posted a 1 up thriller over Jun Bernis, Gutierrez showed the door to former champ Artemio Murakami via a 2 and 1 decision, Alejandro downed Marc Lopez (4 and 2) and Asistio defeated Eric Escalona also by a 4 and 2 score.

Juvic Pagunsan also made a safe passage with a 3 and 1 domination of Mari Hechanova and will face Canlubang teammate Ronnie Torrecampo, a 3 and 1 winner over JR Tanpinco, today.

Also making it were Erwin Vinluan who nipped Hanson So Jr. in 19 holes to earn a crack at Delariarte; Raymund Sangil who went through an extra hole before upending Ramon Velez; Jay Bayron who ousted Mark Vijar, 1 up, and Gene Bondoc, who edged past Bobby Celestino, 2 and 1.



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1st quarter OFW remittances up 6.58%

By Clarissa S. Batino

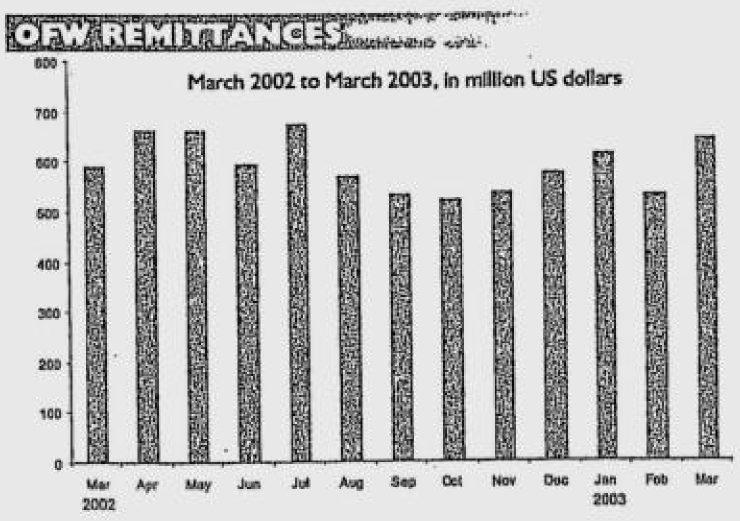
DOLLARS sent by some eight million nurses, IT professionals, engineers, domestic helpers and other Filipinos working abroad reached $1.78 billion in the first quarter, up 6.6 percent or $110 million from $1.67 billion a year ago.

For the month of March, remittances rose 8.7 percent to $640.76 million from $589 million last year, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

In January and February, remittances amounted to $611 million and $530 million.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he was hopeful that dollar inflow from offshore workers would continue to reach new peaks this year despite a marked slowdown in growth compared to the previous year when remittances were growing at double-digit levels each month.

OFW REMITTANCES



There were even months in 2002 when growth in OFW inflow reached nearly 40 percent.

The observed slowdown prompted the central bank to assume a flat growth in OFW remittances this year in drafting its external payments target. Dollar remittances form part of the country's current accounts, a big component of the balance-of-payments position reflecting movements in trade.

"If (hirings) for additional workers for the Iraq reconstruction push through and given that demand for caregivers continue to grow, I think we would see a stronger level of remittances in the second semester," the BSP chief said in an interview.

Last year, overseas Filipino workers sent home $6.93 billion, the highest ever although it was lower by about $1 billion than the government target. It was up by 15 percent from $6.03 billion in 2001.

"It is too early to say whether there was really a slowdown this year. There could just have been delays in the first few months given the Middle East war. I think we would see a faster growth in the second half," said the central bank chief.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said it has not completed the data on fresh-hired and re-hired for the month of March. In the first two months, the newly employed and re-hired stood at 165,907, up 0.4 percent from 165,198 last year. In 2002, the POEA said the level of freshly hired and re-hired reached 891,908 against 867,599 the previous year.

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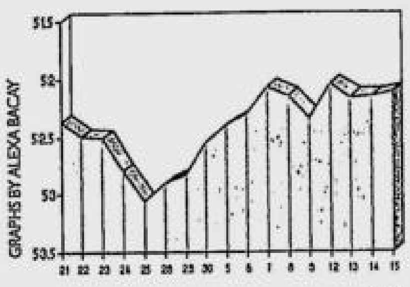

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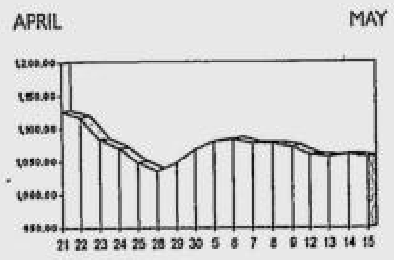
STOCK MARKET

Stocks end down

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B7)

STOCKS ended lower yesterday, led down by PLDT despite its sterling first-quarter results.

"PLDT results may be better than expected but the market had priced in the sharp increase and is now locking in gains," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

"Generally, market sentiment is weak due to lack of positive leads both on the economic and corporate front."

The main index fell 4.42 points or 0.42 percent to 1,057.14 but is still up 3.8 percent since the start of the year.

Turnover dropped to P152.12 million from Wednesday's P301.17 million. Losers beat gainers 26 to 21 and there were 28 stocks unchanged.

BPI Securities stock analyst Roberto Cano said the market also reacted negatively to news of weaker agricultural output in the first quarter. The farm sector accounts for a fifth of the country's gross domestic product.

The government said on Wednesday that farm output grew 2.79 percent year-on-year in the first quarter, slower than the revised 5.24-percent expansion in the same period of last year, due to the El Niño weather pattern.

Reuters

Philippine debt yields slightly up

PHILIPPINE debt yields rose slightly by 5 to 10 basis points in the secondary market yesterday mainly due to profit-taking after a sustained decline in interest rates, dealers said.

Some banks were also preparing their cash for new issues by the Treasury this month, including a promissory note offer on Monday and retail Treasury bonds which dealers said were likely to be issued later this month.

"The banks who sold today were probably just taking profits from positions taken two to three weeks ago," said a dealer from a local bank.

"It's just a slight correction," the dealer added.

There were done deals on longer dated treasury bonds with maturities of 2 to 10 years at slightly higher rates from Wednesday.

Although market liquidity rose last week following government debt maturities worth about P40 billion, banks were expecting some tightness with upcoming government debt offerings.

Reuters

Team to probe smuggling of used cars in Subic, Cebu

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has formed an inter-agency team to investigate the smuggling of imported vehicles through the Subic Bay Freeport Zone and the port of Cebu.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that reports of rampant smuggling of vehicles from these two ports have been circulating and it was about time for the government to address the problem.

Members of the inter-agency group are Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan, Finance Assistant Secretary Noel Bonoan, and Undersecretary Miguel Coronel of the Anti-Smuggling Intelligence and Investigation Center.

The group must determine the extent of the problem and take the necessary enforcement measures immediately.

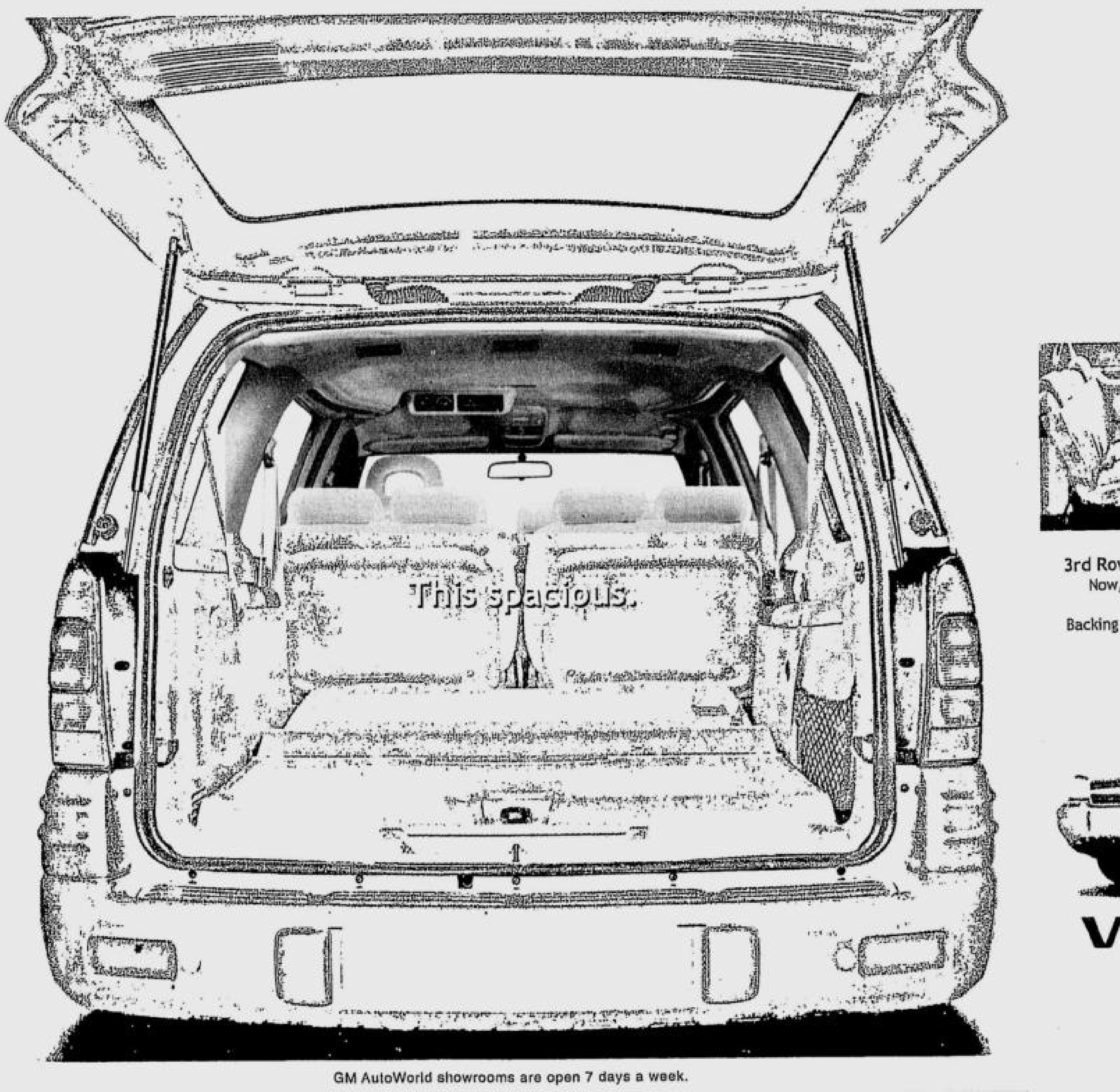
Camacho said the government would also invite the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines and the Federation of Philippine Industries to participate in the discussions on how to address the smuggling of motor vehicles.

Customs' Bernardo said the main problem would be on arriving at a proper valuation for imported vehicles. Under the current system, the declared value must be the basis of tariffs and duties.

Clarissa S. Batino

DELEGATES from the nine-member countries of Asean as well as from Japan, China and South Korea attend the two-day meeting of airport officials to draft standard measures to prevent the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, at Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga, May 15. SARS worldwide has more than 7,600 cases with 591 deaths.

AP



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Vitarich asks banks to restructure debt

By Doris C. Dumlao

CITING the need to nurture its feeds business, poultry integrator and livestock feeds manufacturer Vitarich Corp. has asked its creditors for more time to pay off its P2.5-billion debt.

Vitarich said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it is in the middle of negotiations with creditor-banks to amend the terms of the restructuring agreement hammered out in 2001.

"Essentially, the company is seeking a reduction in interest rates and a longer repayment term to give it time to make a successful business transition. If approved, Vitarich will have a lighter debt burden which will allow it to grow its feeds business," Vitarich said.

Vitarich, however, did not divulge specific details of the new terms being sought from the creditors.

This developed as Vitarich incurred a net loss of P231.79 million in the first quarter, up from P174.65 million recorded in the same period last year. The additional losses were attributed mainly to the continuing decline in the prices of chicken in the local market.

Vitarich, thus, said there was a "deliberate move" to scale down its poultry business as it expected chicken prices to remain low due to oversupply.

"To reverse the losses, Vitarich will focus its resources on the more stable feeds business. Poultry has proved to be highly volatile and has caused the depletion of the company's capital base," it said.

The company said it would need to implement a new strategy to reduce costs and improve its bottom line, thus the need for the fresh round of talks with its creditor banks.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. lead the list of Vitarich's creditors and are represented in the company's board.

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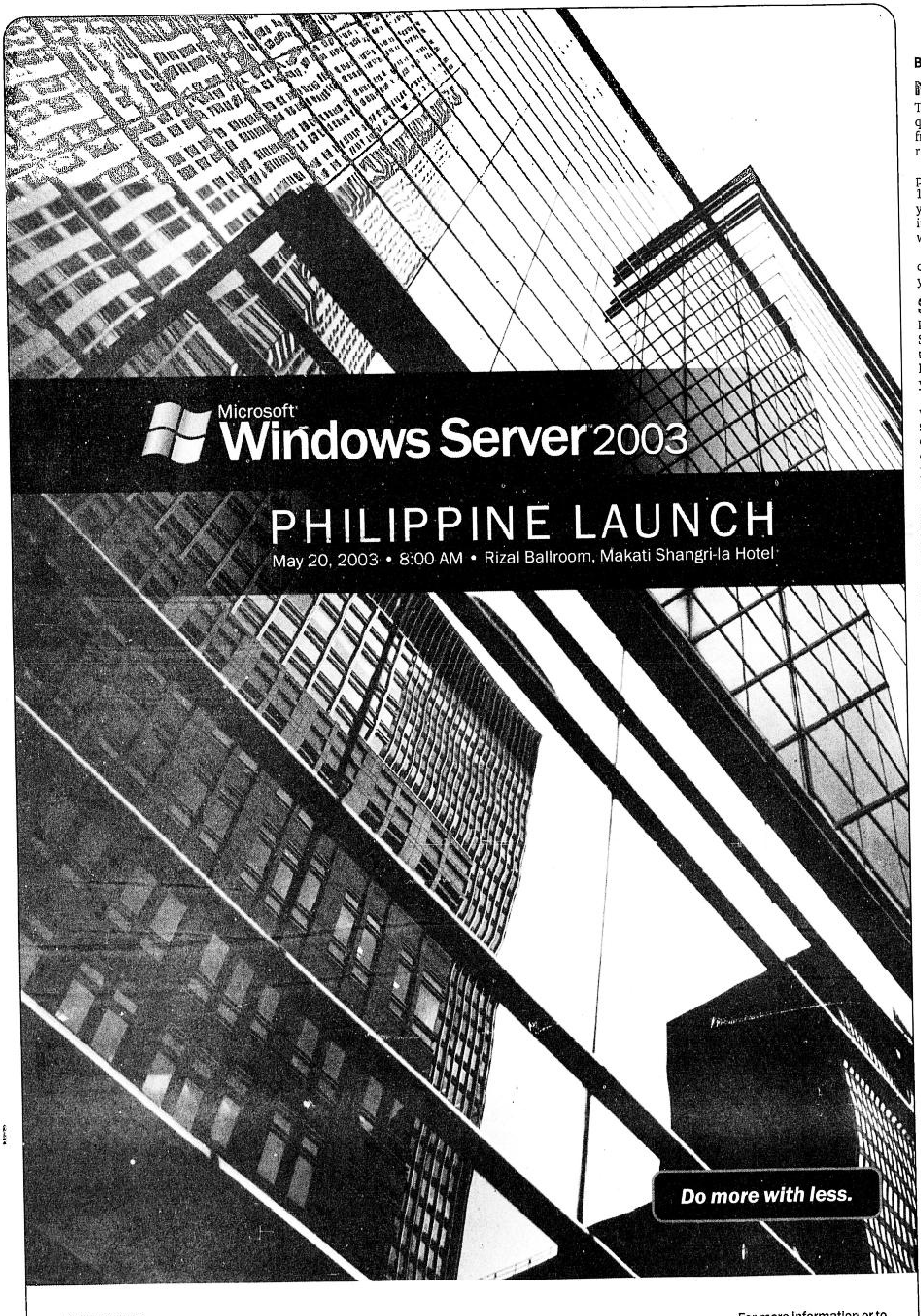

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CORPORATE EARNINGS

By Elena R. Torrijos

Meralco losses up in Q1

THE MANILA Electric Co. ended the first quarter with a net loss of P325.1 million, up from P72.8 million registered in the same period last year.

Although sales volume increased by 9.3 percent and system losses declined from 13.16 percent in 2002 to 11.23 percent this year, the Supreme Court order for it to reduce its distribution rate by 16.7 centavos per kilowatt-hour led to additional losses.

Operating expenses went up by 10.4 percent to P30.5 billion from P27.6 billion last year.

Swift incurs P121-M loss

EFFECTIVE cost-cutting measures reduced Swift Foods Inc.'s net loss to P121 million in the first quarter this year, less than half the P254 million recorded in the same period last year.

Swift, however, said in documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission that the cost-cutting measures were not enough to put Swift back to profitability because of "lower sales volume and low selling prices of poultry products brought about by the economic slowdown."

Swift posted revenue of P931 million during the first quarter, 32 percent lower than last year because of lower sales volume, lower consumer spending and the transfer of meat business to RFM effective October last year.

"The poultry industry is hopeful that selling prices of poultry products will improve in the ensuing months to be able to recover from the losses experienced in the previous year and in the first quarter of this year," Swift said.

Swift disclosed that it had undertaken some restructuring activities to address the continuing downward trend of business and it would continue to implement cost saving measures such as closing down inefficient and unprofitable branches.

Metro Pacific trims losses

PROPERTY firm Metro Pacific Corp. has trimmed its net loss to P59 million in the first quarter of this year, from P521.3 million in the same period last year.

MPC told the Securities and Exchange Commission that the improved financial condition was mainly due to its smaller share in the losses of subsidiary, Bonifacio Land Corp.

MPC also cited the improved performance of shipping unit Negros Navigation Co., which posted a profit of P10.5 million in the first quarter, more than double the previous year's P4.9 million.

Landco Pacific Corp., meanwhile, registered a net profit of P4.8 million for the period, slightly lower than the previous year's P5.2 million because of the additional costs related to the construction of its Terrazas de Punta Fuego and Leisure Farms expansion projects.

MPC also reported the renewed sales interest in its Pacific Plaza Towers project. About 297 units or 75.6 percent of the project's 393 units have so far been sold.

ATI posts P104-M profit

ASIAN Terminals Inc. posted a slightly higher net profit of P104 million in the first quarter of this year, from P103 million registered last year.

The publicly listed ports and logistics operator said in a statement that increased cargo volumes pushed its consolidated revenue during the period to P899 million, while earnings before interest and taxes grew 10 percent to P235 million.

"The continued improvement in ATI's financial performance resulted from the company's organic growth," ATI executive vice president and chief executive John Buckley said.

"I am pleased that despite the recent issues and concerns in Philippine business, the multi-million investments we have pursued to improve our services have enabled us to achieve significant increases in cargo volume handled at the country's major international seaports where we operate."

ATI said that the South Harbor posted a 13-percent increase in container volume to 153,541 twenty-foot equivalent units from 135,506 TEUs in the first quarter last year.

South Harbor domestic operations performed as expected with 13,478 TEU's of freight and serviced 50,649 passengers.

Tagaytay hot lands

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE REAL estate industry on a whole may still be in a funk, but not in Tagaytay and certainly not in Tagaytay Highlands.

Last Holy Week, the upscale members-only resort accepted reservations for its Plantation Hills farm lots, and, in a snap, more than 150 out of the 199 lots planned for Phase 1 were taken up, reservation money paid up front.

To think that the Highlands is a Johnny-come-lately in the farm lot game.

The publicly listed Belle Corp., which owns Tagaytay Highlands, has reserved 30 hectares for the first phase of Plantation Hills, located beside the Midlands in the Tanauan side of the upland resort community.

Farm lots come in 750 square meters to 2,000 sq.m. sizes, at P3,000/sq.m.

Assuming that 20 hectares are the net salable area after taking out roads and other public areas, Plantation Hills would bring the debt-restructuring Belle about P600 million gross. And that is just Phase 1. An additional 30 hectares are being planned for Phase 2.

Per decree of Tagaytay Highlands taipan in residence, Henry Sy, only organic farming is allowed within Plantation Hills, and only up to 20 percent of the lot footprint may be built over with weekend residences, preferably done country-style.

The attraction is for city slickers who never lift a finger in their own homes to work on all fours during weekends, imagining themselves as gentlemen farmers.

Stop the press

DESPITE already having chosen the key staffers, the free tabloid being planned by Graphic/dwIZ owner Antonio Cabangon Chua will not see print.

Reason? Cabangon Chua, after being nominated as the country's ambassador to Laos, thinks it is not a good idea to start a new and risky venture and operate it by remote control from overseas.

Cabangon Chua's putative paper was inspired by the success of Libre, the INQUIRER tabloid that is being distributed free at LRT and MRT stations Mondays to Fridays.

Money is to be made from such free papers from advertisements, just like what has been sustaining, say, the Village Voice, the weekly paper that is being distributed in Makati and Ortigas villages, condos, restaurants and hotels.

Cabangon Chua's nomination papers have been forwarded by Malacañang to the Commission on Appointments, where the radio, motel and insurance tycoon thinks it would sail smoothly save perhaps for an opposition from the likes of former Graphic editor Antonio Lopez.

Whoops, that is another story.

Backroom girl

THE BACKROOM boy that produced the "depensa" TV ads of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes is actually a girl.

"Sony" Jalandoni is Maria Asuncion Jalandoni, a St. Scholastica and La Salle graduate who became a "suki" of the defense establishment after she produced a video documentary for the Philippine Military Academy, A Day in the Life of a Cadet, way back in 1992.

A project of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, the Reyes TV ads were shot in all of one day, according to Jalandoni, with the Reyes talk portion taking only two hours to shoot in Camp Aguinaldo.

The rest was stock footage lifted from previous NDCC documentaries.

Jalandoni said she only handled the creative side of the production, and does not know which ad agency is handling the multimillion-peso media placements.

In addition to the current series, there would still be the "lindol" (earthquake) and "baha" (flood) variants of the ads, which would be swamping prime time presumably until mid-2004.

Heard through the grapevine

PRESIDENTIAL balae and former PCCI president Herman Montenegro said he would support Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. if the San Miguel chair decides to run for president.

(E-mail Cocktales at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Further oil price cuts seen

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A THIRD round of price cuts in petroleum products could be due in the next two weeks, an oil executive said yesterday.

Consumer welfare advocates said this could be at an average of 32 centavos per liter.

In a telephone interview, Consumer and Oil Price Watch (COPW) chair Raul Concepcion said oil prices could be reduced again any time between May 24 and May 26.

In a separate interview, Petron public affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar said a third round of price cuts for this months was "possible.

But Roberto Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell general manager for external affairs, said there was no telling yet as "anything could happen in the next two weeks."

On the other hand, Eastern Petroleum chair Fernando Martinez said there would be no more price reductions this month.

"I think further price cuts would be too risky, particularly for small oil companies," Martinez said.

He said global prices could go up in the next two weeks,

FURTHER/ B5

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NOTICE

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Pasay Chung Hua Academy has informed us that they could not accommodate the heavy turnout of examinees. San Pedro College, on the other hand, is presently under renovation.

Kindly go over your GSIS Testing Slips and check if you are affected by these changes to forestall confusion and inconvenience on exam day.

Inquirer—May 16, 17, & 18, 2003

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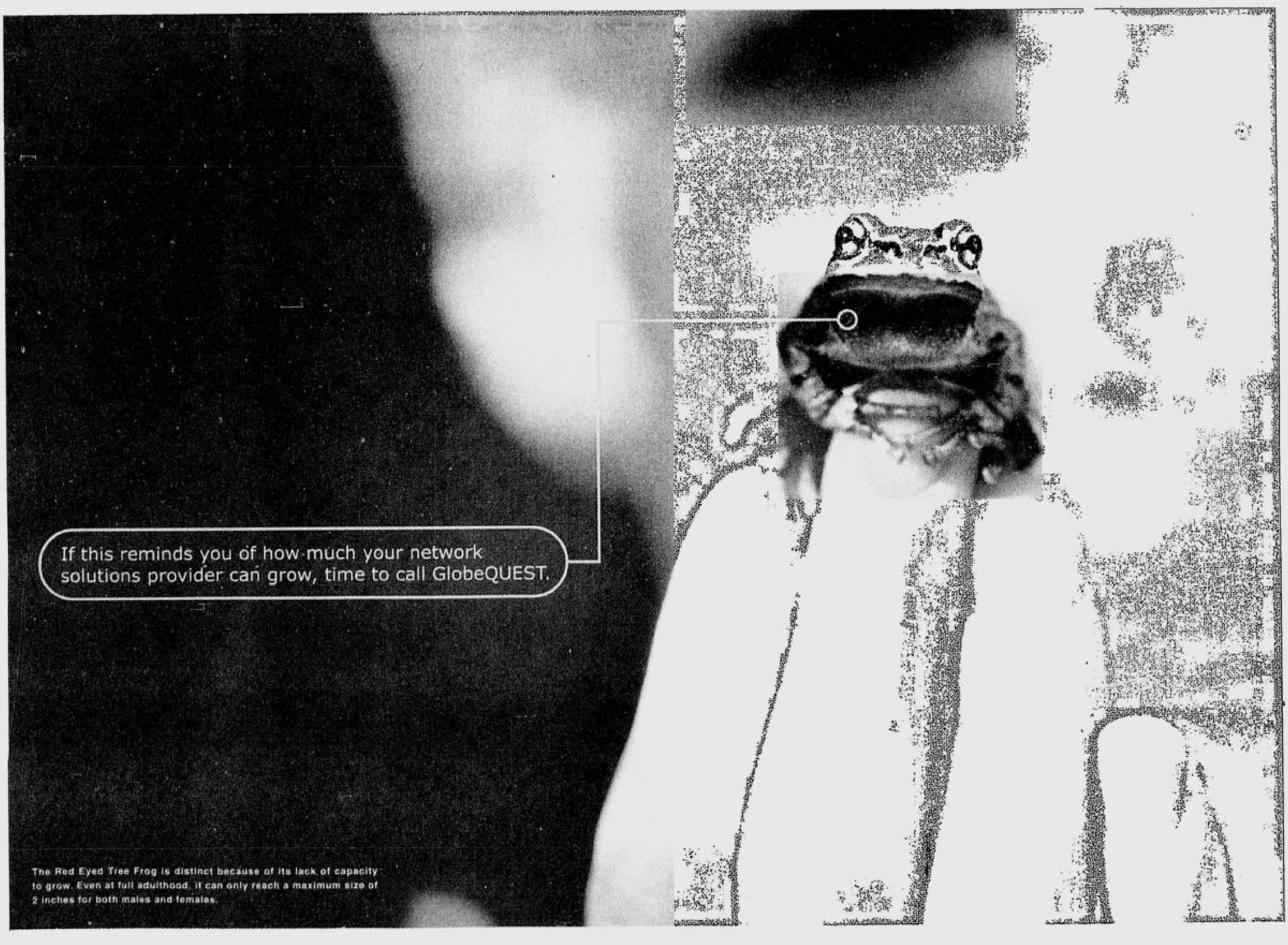
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Reserving municipal waters for small fishermen

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

THERE is something the government and the academe can learn from business. It is taking action with imperfect conditions.

I have worked 16 years in the government, three years in the academe, and 12 years in business. For the government and the academe, there is hesitation to move until all things are properly in place. For business, quick action is necessary, even in stages, to get the upper hand in competition.

DENR order

Today, there is much ado about fisheries and DAO 17.

DENR Department Administrative Order 17 (DAO 17) was signed almost two years ago on June 11, 2001. It provides the guidelines for the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) to delineate municipal waters. In these waters, usually within 15 kilometers off the shoreline, only small fishers are allowed to fish.

The municipal government has the discretion to bring this limit down to 10.1 kilometers. According to Arsenio Tanchuling, executive director of Tambuyog Development Foundation and one of the convenors of the national coalition Kilos Mangingisda, three of DAO 17's main benefits are:

- It permits only small fishers in municipal waters. Three million small fishers, not counting their families, depend on these waters for their livelihood.
- It allows the replenishment and preservation of fisheries in the protected area. Mr. Tanchuling said that similar to forests being denuded by big loggers, municipal waters are often similarly deprived of a minimum level of essential fishery stock by commercial fishing.
- It mandates the municipal government to manage these municipal waters, including those connected to offshore islands. Excluding offshore islands from this coverage will deprive 33 per cent of our 915 cities and municipalities of their coastal waters.

However, last March 17, 2003, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Elisea Gozun revoked DAO 17. She said she had to follow Department of Justice (DOJ) Opinion No.100 stipulating that the Department of Agriculture (DA), not the DENR, should issue the department order. Sec. Gozun also stopped Namria from delineating municipal waters until the final DA guidelines are finalized.

What is at issue is whether Namria should desist from any further activity until the DA guidelines are finished.

John Galit, program coordinator for the Environmental Legal Assistance Center, pointed out that in 2001, commercial fishing and municipal fishers each accounted for 31 percent of the catch. But whereas commercial fishermen provided only 6 percent of the total fisheries employment, municipal fishers accounted for 68 percent.

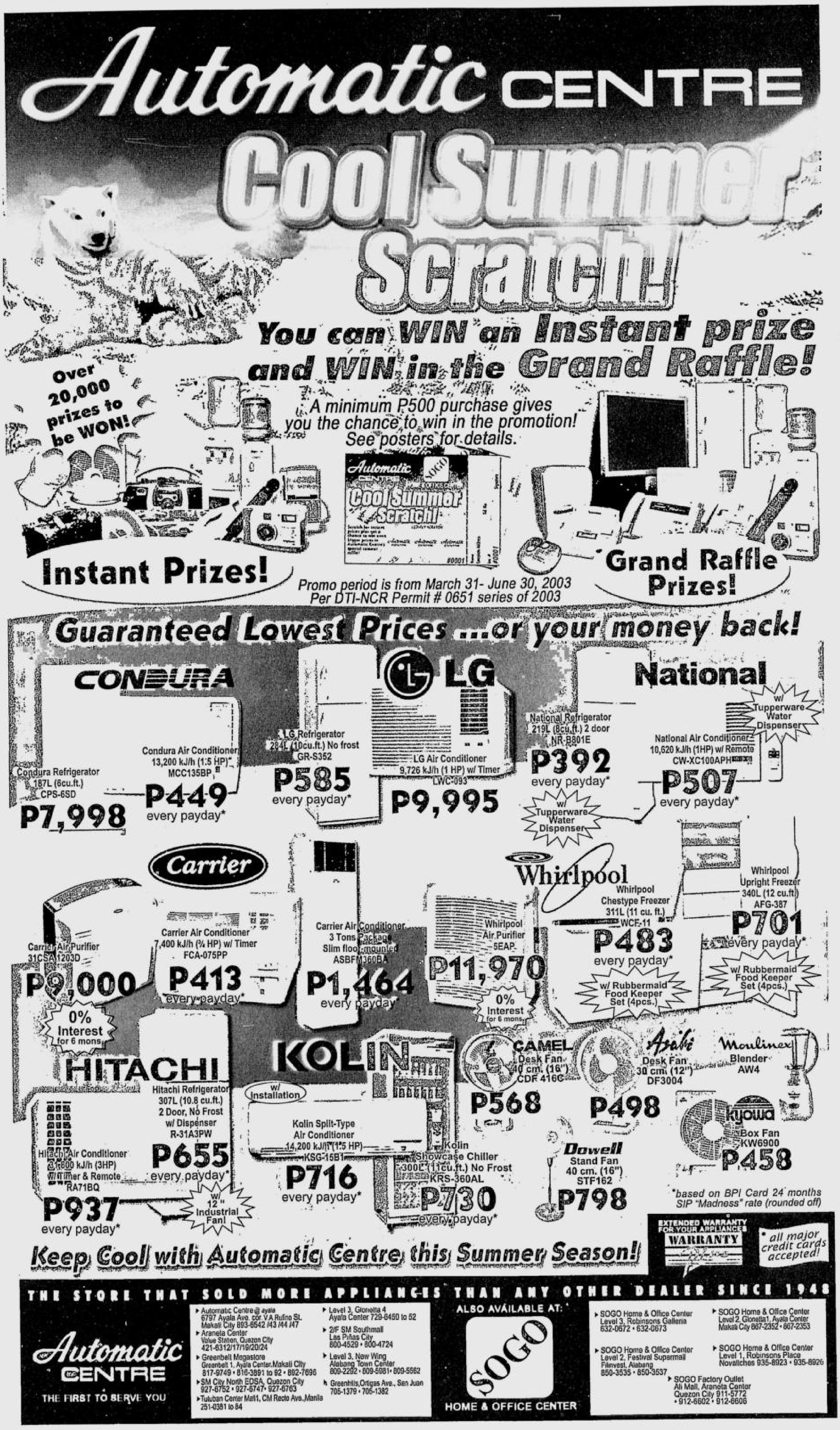
DAO 17 was in force during the entire 2002. The warning from the commercial fishermen that fishery production would severely decline and prices would shoot up did not materialize. The entire fishery sector grew by 6.4 percent, with commercial fishing growing at 6.6 percent.

An example

Liliano Damo-ag of Sitio Nagtabon, Barangay Bacungan, Puerto Princesa,Palawan is the president of the Volunteers Community Paralegal Association, part of Pederasyon Ng Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Puerto Princesa which in turn is aligned with Kilos Mangingisda. When DAO 17 was implemented, his group—composed of 20 boats with one to five fishers per boat—increased its catch from 50 kilos to 1 ton per trip or a 20-fold increase. He says this happened because commercial fishing was not allowed in the area. But since DAO 17 was suspended and Namria was told to stop municipal water delineation, they fear that commercial fishing will once again enter these waters and their catch will drop back to 50 kilos.

In a paper on municipal water delineation distributed after the revocation of DAO 17, five lawyers from the DENR, DA, LGU of Cebu, Saligan Law Office and Philmark stated that a city or municipality can undertake its own delineation process. They can use the rules contained in the original DAO 17, pending the issuance of new guidelines. However, if DAO 17 is changed

RESERVING/ B8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LG
LG Refrigerator 284L (10cu.ft.) No frost GR-S352 P585 every payday*
LG Air Conditioner 9,726 kJ/h (1 HP) w/ Timer LWC-093 P9,995
National
National Refrigerator 219L (8cu.ft.) 2 door NR-B801E P392 every payday* w/ Tupperware Water Dispenser
National Air Conditioner 10,620 kJ/h (1HP) w/ Remote CW-XC100APH P507 every payday* w/ Tupperware Water Dispenser
Carrier
Carrier Air Purifier 31CSA1203D P9,000 0% Interest for 6 mons.
Carrier Air Conditioner 7,400 kJ/h (¾ HP) w/ Timer FCA-075PP P413 every payday*
Carrier Air Conditioner 3 Tons Package Slim floor-mounted ASBFM360BA P1,464 every payday*
Whirlpool
Whirlpool Air Purifier 5EAP P11,970 0% Interest for 6 mons.
Whirlpool Chestype Freezer 311L (11 cu. ft.) WCF-11 P483 every payday* w/ Rubbermaid Food Keeper Set (4pcs.)
Whirlpool Upright Freezer 340L (12 cu.ft) AFG-387 P701 every payday* w/ Rubbermaid Food Keeper Set (4pcs.)
HITACHI
Hitachi Air Conditioner 31,600 kJ/h (3HP) W/ Timer & Remote RA71BQ P937 every payday*
Hitachi Refrigerator 307L (10.8 cu.ft.) 2 Door, No Frost w/ Dispenser R-31A3PW P655 every payday* w/ 12" Industrial Fan!
KOLIN
Kolin Split-Type Air Conditioner 14,200 kJ/h (1.5 HP) KSG-15B1 P716 every payday* w/ Installation
Kolin Showcase Chiller 300L (11cu.ft.) No Frost KRS-360AL P730 every payday*
CAMEL Desk Fan 40 cm. (16") CDF 416C P568
Asahi Desk Fan 30 cm. (12") DF3004 P498
Moulinex Blender AW4
Dowell Stand Fan 40 cm. (16") STF162 P798
kyowa Box Fan KW6900 P458
*based on BPI Card 24 months SIP "Madness" rate (rounded off)
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EXTENDED WARRANTY FOR YOUR APPLIANCES WARRANTY
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▸ Araneta Center Value Station, Quezon City 421-6312/17/19/20/24
▸ Greenbelt Megastore Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City 817-9749 • 816-3891 to 92 • 892-7696
▸ SM City North EDSA, Quezon City 927-6752 • 927-6747 • 927-6763
▸ Tutuban Center Mall1, CM Recto Ave.,Manila 251-0381 to 84
▸ Level 3, Glorietta 4 Ayala Center 729-8450 to 52
▸ 2/F SM Southmall Las Piñas City 800-4529 • 800-4724
▸ Level 3, New Wing Alabang Town Center 809-2202 • 809-5981 • 809-5562
▸ Greenhills,Ortigas Ave., San Juan 705-1379 • 705-1382
ALSO AVAILABLE AT: SOGO HOME & OFFICE CENTER
▸ SOGO Home & Office Center Level 3, Robinsons Galleria 632-0672 • 632-0673
▸ SOGO Home & Office Center Level 2, Glorietta1, Ayala Center Makati City 867-2352 • 867-2353
▸ SOGO Home & Office Center Level 2, Festival Supermall Filinvest, Alabang 850-3535 • 850-3537
▸ SOGO Home & Office Center Level 1, Robinsons Place Novaliches 935-8923 • 935-8926
▸ SOGO Factory Outlet Ali Mall, Araneta Center Quezon City 911-5772 • 912-6602 • 912-6606

Over 4,000 Instant Prizes Have Been Given Away!

THIS SUMMER, cool down with Automatic Centre's **Cool Summer Scratch** and be one of our lucky customers who have won for themselves appliances instantly!

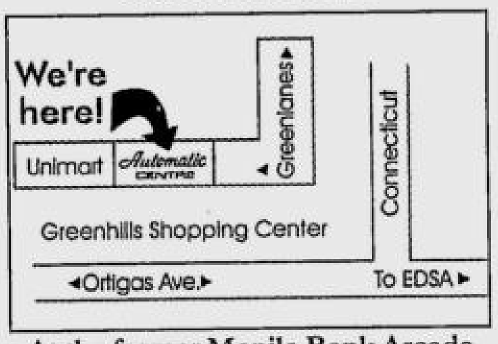
Customers of various branches have become **instant winners of numerous appliances:** stand fans, desk fans, blenders, hot and cold water dispensers, VCD players, cassette recorders, cordless phones, coffee makers, rice cookers, 2-burner gas stoves, electric kettle, flat iron, and many more items.

You, too, can be as lucky as them! You can win the **videoke microphone, digital camera**, foot spa, more electric fans, etc.

For a **minimum purchase of P500** at any Automatic Centre or Sogo branch, you get a scratch card in which you can win instant prizes. Plus, you can also join in the **grand raffle** wherein you can win various home appliances! **The top prize is a 43" projection TV.** Other major prizes include a **1hp airconditioner with timer**, videoke microphone, **2-door refrigerator,** digital camera, **fax machines,** hot and cold water dispensers, portable VCD players and cordless phone.

Promo is until June 30, 2003, so hurry and be cool and lucky this summer season with Automatic Centre's **Cool Summer Scratch!**

Automatic Centre Is Back in Greenhills!



At the former Manila Bank Arcade facing Ortigas Avenue

Greenhills shoppers and patrons can once again enjoy the best deals on top-of-the-line appliances at an Automatic Centre branch that's closer to them.

Now's the best time to get the latest home entertainment (audio & video) appliances and enjoy them in the comfort and safety of your home.

Home theatre systems, DVD & VCD players and components, video cameras and more are available in-store.

Best of all, you get to enjoy the exclusive **Money-Back Guarantee** with every appliance you buy. The Money-Back Guarantee is a 14-day price protection coverage. Visit our stores for details.

Get the best offers at the heart of the city's bargain center. Visit Automatic Centre in Greenhills today.

Haier
HANABISHI
SAMSUNG
SHARP
3D
TOSHIBA
White-Westinghouse
Adv.

RP competitiveness ranking slips to 22

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES' international competitiveness ranking dropped to 22 this year from last year's 18, signaling a slowdown in the country's ability to attract foreign investments against rival economies, the International Management Development (IMD) .said in its 2003 World Competitiveness Yearbook.

The IMD report, which was presented yesterday at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), showed that the decline in the country's ranking was brought by its slipping performance in four major areas considered as competitiveness indicators. These were economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure.

Federico Macarañas, executive director of the AIM Policy Center, explained that the competitiveness survey included 59 economies, which were divided into two groups, namely those whose population exceeded 20 million, and those whose population is less. He said the first group, where the Philippines is included, is composed of 30 economies, while the second is composed of 29.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

GREETINGS:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of ***BANKARD, INC.*** will be held on ***THURSDAY, 29 MAY 2003*** at ***2:30 P.M.*** at ***St. La Salle Hall, 5th Floor, Tower II, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila,*** to consider and act on the following:

AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Proof of Notice and Determination of a Quorum
3. Approval of minutes of the last annual meeting of the stockholders held on May 30, 2002
4. Annual Report of the President for the year 2002.
5. Approval of the Audited Financial Statements for the year 2002.
6. Ratification of the actions taken by the Board of Directors and Officers of the Corporation since the last annual meeting of the stockholders.
7. Election of Directors for the ensuing year.
8. Appointment of external auditors.
9. Transaction of such other matters as may properly come before the meeting; and
10. Adjournment.

An Organizational Board of Directors' Meeting will follow right after the adjournment of the stockholders' meeting.

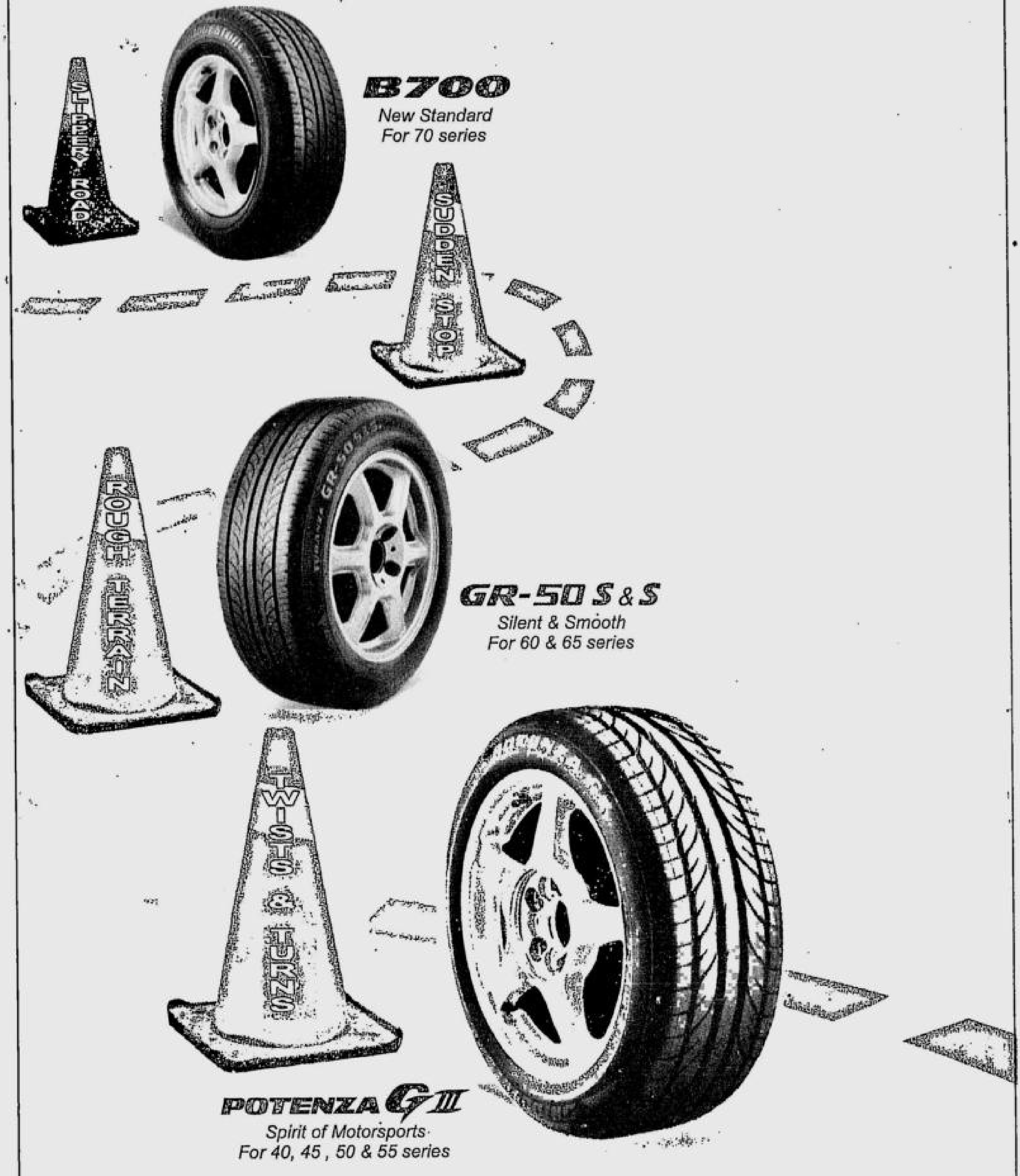
In case you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may appoint a proxy to represent you by accomplishing a proxy form and filing the same with Bankard's Corporate office not later than five (5) working days before the time of the scheduled meeting. No proxy bearing a signature which is not legally acknowledged by the Secretary and verified by the authorized signatory of Bankard's Stock Transfer Agent, Securities Transfer Services, Inc., shall be honored at the meeting. If the stockholder is a corporation, a Secretary's Certificate of the board resolution designating the proxy and the authorized officer to execute the proxy should be submitted together with the proxy. Validation of proxies will be made on May 24, 2003 at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) by Securities Transfer Services, Inc. at Bankard's office at Pasig City. Standing proxies on file with the Company will be recognized, unless specifically revoked or a new proxy is received by the Company. Only stockholders of record at close of business on April 29, 2003 shall be entitled to notice of or to vote or be voted at the scheduled meeting.

The Management is not asking you for a proxy nor is it requesting you to send a proxy in its favor.

May 08, 2003
Pasig City, Metro Manila

(sgd.) ATTY. MARCELO T. DY
Corporate Secretary

Guaranteed to pass through any obstacle.



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Further

From page B3

especially because of an expected cut in production by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in June.

COPW's Concepcion said the 32 centavos would be the balance left after two rounds of price cuts totalling at an average of 68 centavos a liter. He had said prices should go down by a total of P1 per liter in May.

In the last two weeks, local oil firms had reduced gasoline prices by a total of 80 centavos a liter and those of diesel and kerosene by 60 centavos a liter.

The last reduction was on Thursday with Petron, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum, Caltex Philippines, TotalFinaElf Philippines, Flying V, Seaoil Philippines and Unioil Philippines slashing pump prices by 50 centavos per liter of gasoline and 40 centavos per liter of diesel and kerosene.

Meantime, new player Eastern Petroleum reduced prices of gasoline by 55 centavos per liter.

International Dubai crude prices averaged at $23.46 per barrel in April, down by $3.91 from $27.37 per barrel in February.

"Mercedes-Benz is a trademark of DaimlerChrysler".

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1978 - 2003
ASAP 25
Reaching Silver - Achieving Gold

Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines
Celebrates Silver Anniversary!

METALLICA *night*
It's your time to Shine!
May 16, 2003, 7:00 pm
Coconut Palace, PICC Complex

An overview of **ASAP**

The Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (ASAP) is a non-profit, non-stock corporation of service suppliers, firms and production requirements of the local advertising industry. Formally organized on June 1978, ASAP is one of the nine (9) trade association-members of the Philippine Board of Advertising (PBA), now known as the Advertising Board of the Philippines (ADBOARD), the umbrella organization, policy-making body and self-regulatory machinery of the local advertising industry/community. ASAP represents the suppliers sector of the industry/ad community in the ADBOARD with two (2) directorate seats.

ASAP has one hundred forty (140) duly licensed supplier members, belonging to twelve (12) supplier trade sectors, a combination/mergence of groups with interrelated lines services/business trades.

The twelve (12) sectors, categorized basically as print-oriented, broadcast-oriented/, related, or special/non-traditional media, are presently composed of: 1) advertising photographers, 2) audio recording studios, 3) audio-visual producers/multimedia production houses, 4) color separators/printers, 5) commercial production houses, 6) graphics designers/special promo merchandising, 7) jinglewriters/producers/arrangers, 8) model/talent agencies, 9) post production facilities and related services, 10) service talents, 11) special events and 12) technical services.

Committee **WORK**

ASAP Silver Anniversary Over-all Chairman Jose Sy discussing the preparations to the 25th Anniversary. Shown in photo are the committee members of the 25th anniversary.

MANILA
ADASIA'97
IMAGINASIA
NOVEMBER 12-15 1997

ASAP hosted and chaired the 20th Asian Advertising Congress, "AD Asia Manila" in 1997. This was attended by over 2,000 delegates from both local and foreign delegates from Asia and the Pacific region.

ASAP
BLACK BOOK
the guide to philippine advertising services

ASAP BLACK BOOK

The ASAP Black Book is an icon of hard work and cooperation. It is a tribute to each ASAP members capabilities and skills and was made possible thru the unstinting mentoring efforts of Jose Sy, one of the founders and original members of the ASAP Board, who has been a constant force behind every Black Book ever published.

2003 board of directors

SEATED FROM LEFT: **Cherry P. Salazar** Secretary, **Khalil O. Khodr, Jr** President, **Jose Y. Sy** Silver Anniversary Committee Over-all Chairman, **Alvin R. Manacsa** Chairman, **Salomon V. Malca, Martin B. Wong** VP-External.

STANDING FROM LEFT: **Remedios C. Bautista, Edgar M. Navalta** VP-Internal, **Allen Velez** (Committee Member), **Pete Jimenez, Edgar M. Navalta** VP-Internal, **Anne V. Generoso, Meryl G. Schlachterman, Rick Hawthorne** Treasurer, **Raul B. Blay, Edgar B. Arcilla, Macoy Villaroman** (not in photo).

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STAGE RIGGERS, INC.
OPTIMA DIGITAL
Videofilm
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ga printing inc.
We set the Standards in Color Separation Everbest Graphic Systems, Inc.
Unitel PRODUCTIONS
PICTUREWORKS
Holy Cow! ANIMATION
THEME & SCHEME MARKETING INC.
BlueDot VIDEO
RHYTHM AND HUES
CONFETTI EFFECTS
CalypsoColor
STAGE CRAFT
HIT PRODUCTIONS
EVENTS POOL
18 rupert Signs & Display Services
G. A. PRODUCTIONS, INC. Your Event Management Team
INDUSTRIA

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, May 15, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.25	15.25	15	15?	1,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	35	35	34.5	35?	583,400
China Banking Corp.	700	700	700	700	300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5?	68,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	27	27	42,200
Prudential Bank	375	375	375	375	4,530
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	27	26.5	26.5	14,700
Security Bank Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	14,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.25?	838,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1430	1450	1430	1450?	1,580
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1060	1050	1060	2,160
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12?	18,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	.71?	330,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	575	575	565	565?	3,240
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.034	.034?	1,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.016	0.018	0.016	0.018	2,100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	.29?	2,910,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	405	407.5	402.5	402.5?	65,770
Ivantage Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	250,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	9,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	45,000
Manila Electric Co. B	10	10	9.9	9.9?	117,000
Petron Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08?	719,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	15,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.55	189,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	.26?	960,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2.04	2	2.04?	44,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	.48?	610,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5?	2,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	27	27	27	27	500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5?	207,400
San Miguel Corp. A	55.5	55.5	55	55?	290,000
San Miguel Corp. B	66.5	67	66.5	66.5	43,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	.23?	110,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.15	687,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2?	5,651,000
APC Group Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	.115?	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.14	2.16	2.14	2.14?	65,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	.1?	480,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.215	0.195	.205?	3,930,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	.12?	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	580,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2?	213,000
Ionics Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.59	.59?	2,280,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.55	0.57	0.55	.57?	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.16	2,640,000
Music Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	.29?	200,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.3?	53,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	.8?	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	.0875?	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75?	51,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SER	VICES				
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	.4?	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	.29?	390,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	1,620,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75?	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	11	11	11	11?	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.65	4.8	4.65	4.8?	3,997,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.115	0.125	0.115	0.125	600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	90,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.83	0.84	0.83	.84?	4,010,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12?	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	.15?	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28?	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1?	175,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	1,210,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	200,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.21	0.21	0.21	.21?	10,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.0038	.0038?	38,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	.25?	730,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	22,000,000

CURRENCIES

May 15, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.869868	1.000000	52.128000
Japan	Yen	0.007487	0.008607	0.448700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.407794	1.618400	84.364000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111543	0.128230	6.684400
Switzerland	Franc	0.661145	0.760052	39.620000
Canada	Dollar	0.633322	0.728067	37.952700
Singapore	Dollar	0.504242	0.579677	30.217400
Australia	Dollar	0.563058	0.647291	33.742000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.307525	2.652731	138.281600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231959	0.266660	13.900500
Brunei	Dollar	0.502784	0.578001	30.130000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000118	0.006200
Thailand	Baht	0.020662	0.023753	1.238200
UAE	Dirham	0.236866	0.272301	14.194500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.149600	59.926300
ArgentinaPeso	0.315170	0.362319	18.887000	
Brazil	REAL	0.300993	0.346021	18.037400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134676	0.154823	8.070600
India	Rupee	0.018488	0.021254	1.107900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228943	0.263193	13.719700
Mexico	New Peso	0.084518	0.097162	5.064900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.500097	0.574911	29.969000
Norway	Kroner	0.127027	0.146030	7.612300
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015097	0.017355	0.904700
South Africa	Rand	0.115462	0.132735	6.919200
Korea	Won	0.000728	0.000837	0.043600
Sweden	Kroner	0.109050	0.125364	6.535000
Syria	Pound	0.020712	0.023810	1.241200
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025141	0.028902	1.506600
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000545	0.000627	0.032700

DISCLOSURES

PRYCE Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to July 30 due to delays in the preparation of its financial statements.

* * *

ELECTED directors of William, Gothong and Aboitiz Inc. were Jon Ramon Aboitiz, Bob Gothong, Enrique Aboitiz Jr., Roberto Aboitiz, Erramon Aboitiz, Sabin Aboitiz, Justo Ortiz, Washington Sycip and Aloysius Colayco.

* * *

EBECOM Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 10, 2 p.m. with record date on May 28. The board of the directors also approved the proposed change in its corporate name to Aries Prime Resources Inc. John Anthony Espiritu resigned as president and director of the company. Ferdinand Domingo was appointed to replace Espiritu.

CONCRETE Aggregates Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 20, 8 a.m. at the boardroom of Ortigas and Co. Ltd., Ortigas Building, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of May 20 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PNOC Exploration Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 10, 8 a.m. at the PNOC Mini Theater, 7/F of Building 6, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Stockholders of record as of May 31 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

INTEREST RATES

May 15, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 15-May-03 (%)	MART1 14-May-03 (%)
1 Month	7.1615	7.1615
3 Months	7.1625	7.1625
6 Months	8.1692	8.1923
1 Year	8.625	8.6654
2 Years	9.1327	9.1385
3 Years	10.1673	10.125
4 Years	10.8154	10.8615
5 Years	11.1769	11.1212
7 Years	11.6423	11.6058
10 Years	11.8519	11.9025
20 Years	12.8654	12.8846
25 Years	13.3615	13.4058

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

PLDT posts 58% surge in profit

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. posted a 58-percent growth in net income to P2.5 billion in the first quarter from P1.6 billion in the same period last year.

Consolidated revenue also went up by 22 percent to P22.7 billion from P18.7 billion a year ago, while earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization rose 13 percent to P12.5 billion from P11 billion during the same period.

The profit surge was still very much anchored on the strong showing of cellular subsidiary Smart Communications Inc., which registered a 51-percent jump in revenue to P10.7 billion from P7.1 billion the year before.

Smart's profit likewise grew 87 percent to almost P2.8 billion from P1.5 billion last year, outpacing rival Globe Telecom Inc. for the first time.

The cellular giant edged out Globe in both subscriber numbers and revenue during the first three months of the year. In the past, Smart only had higher subscriber numbers but lower revenue.

Net subscriber additions reached 564,000 in the first quarter, giving the company a total subscriber base of 7.4 million. Including the global system for mobile communications (GSM) subscribers of sister firm Pilipino Telephone Corp., Smart had about 9.4 million subscribers on its network.

Aside from buoying the overall performance of the PLDT group with its strong first-quarter numbers, Smart is also expected to pay PLDT P4.3 billion in dividends next month.

PLDT president and chief executive Manuel V. Pangilinan said in a briefing yesterday that the dividend would help address PLDT's maturing obligations this year worth around $150 million to $160 million.

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Carnegie unit signs deal with AMA

ICARNEGIE, a subsidiary of the world-renowned leader in computer science, robotics and engineering (Carnegie Mellon University), has signed an exclusive partnership agreement with AMA Education System (AMAES).

The local firm said the agreement, which took effect last April 21, would boost AMA's computer science curriculum and provide students with the most advanced tools in software systems development through e-Learning and other online facilities.

It added that IT students who finish the modules adapted from iCarnegie would be qualified to take a certification exam that will entitle them due credits should they seek a higher degree at the Carnegie Mellon University.

Allan Fisher, president and CEO of iCarnegie, said his company has terminated its contract with iAcademy, a subsidiary of STI, due to unsettled financial obligations.

Amable Aguiluz V, founder of the AMAES, said in a statement: "This new partnership with iCarnegie guarantees students that their AMA credentials will receive the highest levels of local and international recognition."

For his part, Fisher said the decision to choose AMA as its Philippine partner was solely based on AMA's track record in the IT education. "We are confident that this partnership will redound not only to the benefit of the youth but also to the whole IT industry in the Philippines."

International affiliations became the main thrust of AMAES in order to constantly enhance its computer degree programs and continuously raise the bar of excellence for its students, the statement said. These affiliations also enabled AMA to provide the best computer-based learning and more standardized and progressive quality IT education for the Filipino youth.

PNB

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 27, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on June 25, 2002
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2002
5. Approval of the 2002 Annual Report
6. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from June 26, 2002 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 28, 2003 will be entitled to vote at this meeting.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 22, 2003. A Proxy shall conform with the requirements of Sec. 58 of the Corporation Code, and shall be affixed with a duly paid documentary stamp tax in accordance of Sec. 192 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

Pasay City, March 21, 2003

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WEEKEND TALKS IN FRANCE

G7 finance chiefs worried about sliding dollar

PARIS—Finance ministers from the world's seven main economic powers are worried about the sliding dollar, but it seems they plan to sit tight at weekend talks in France and hope an early interest rate cut by the European Central Bank will solve the problem.

With war over in Iraq and still no hard evidence of a global economic recovery, French Finance Minister Francis Mer wants to focus mainly on longer-term economic reform and development in poor regions when he hosts the talks among the G7 nations.

Mer's main job will be to show that finance ministers are dealing with President Jacques Chirac's promises of greater and more coherent development aid and trade terms for the Third World, and for Africa in particular.

Those are his instructions from Chirac before a June summit in the French town of Evian that involves Russia and the leaders of the G7 nations—the United States, Canada, Japan, Germany, Britain, Italy and France.

Mer has to pave the way for Evian during the finance talks on Friday evening and Saturday in the casino town of Deauville on France's northern Normandy coast.

Officials in some G7 countries made it clear in advance that the euro's surge, and dollar weakness versus the yen too, posed potential threats to economic upturn in the euro zone and Japan, but that nobody was pressing for action at the moment.

The basic problem is that the rise in the euro at some stage starts to hurt exports, although France has somewhat less trade exposure on that front than Germany.

Japanese Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said in Tokyo he did not expect currency talks either at collective level or in bilateral meetings he would have with US Treasury Secretary John Snow in Deauville.

Currency exchange rates are not on the official agenda, and the readout from private conversations with government officials in European capitals was that people were simply hoping for now that the euro would settle down versus the dollar, helped by an ECB rate cut soon.

Mer himself made it clear in a speech to investors in Paris that he believed the euro's strength could hurt growth, despite a statement issued by euro zone finance ministers and the ECB on Monday night saying a strong euro was in Europe's interest.

While the ECB is often called upon the lower interest rates in order to boost lending and business activity, there is now a growing feeling in some circles that a rate cut would also help tame the euro's rise.

"It might be about time to do it," he said.

Talking publicly about ideal levels is regarded as folly in finance ministries but Mer himself said a few days back that a euro at $1.10 or $1.13 was "still tolerable" but that Europe's companies could start hurting seriously at 1.20 or 1.25.

Another monetary source in Europe told Reuters this week that a euro at $1.30 would spell trouble but that that still left a bit of scope.

The euro was trading at around $1.15 on Wednesday, slightly shy of the four-year highs hit in recent days.

The public statements expected from Deauville are expected to amount to a reiteration of "cautious optimism", as one source put it.

As far as G7 growth is concerned, ministers are expected to go back over much the same ground they covered in recent talks in Washington and in Paris in February—promising structural reforms such as the pension system changes that put a million people into the streets on France this week in protests.

The Deauville talks will also be attended by World Bank chief James Wolfensohn and International Monetary Fund chief Horst Koehler. *Reuters*

A vendor cries out to promote a clearance sale at a market in Shanghai. SARS may have brought whole sectors of China's booming economy to a grinding halt but analysts predict that the impact will be temporary and not jeopardize its long-term growth, state press and economists said Wednesday. AFP

China's industrial output down in April

BEIJING—China's industrial output slowed in April, rising 14.9 percent year-on-year to 319.7 billion yuan ($38.6 billion), with the SARS impact trimming back the upturn, the National Bureau of Statistics said Thursday.

The growth rate was 2.3 percent lower than the first quarter due to the impact of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), the bureau said.

Industrial output in March rose 16.9 percent year-on-year and was up 17.2 percent in the first quarter, according to government statistics.

The total figure includes the output of all state enterprises and non-state companies with annual sales of more than 5 million yuan.

Output for the first four months of the year gained 16.4 percent to 1.154 trillion yuan.

The impact of SARS on some sectors of the economy became apparent in April, the bureau said.

Transport and cargo output slipped 0.1 percent year-on-year, with highway transport down 2.3 percent.

Railway transport showed steady growth, however, the bureau said, without providing details.

No figures were provided for growth in output in the telecoms sector, which has been a significant contributor to growth.

But the bureau said that telecom equipment, computers and electronics shaved 0.22 percent off growth in the first quarter.

The auto sector also slowed sharply in April, down 19 percent from the 54 percent rate seen in the first quarter, with much of the reduction seen in trucks, down 12.6 percent.

Sedan output remained strong, rising 83.6 percent to 167,000 units. *AFP*

Japan bankruptcies mild in April, down 7.7%

TOKYO—Japanese corporate bankruptcies maintained their downward trend in April, dropping nearly eight percent from a year ago, but falling stock prices, a higher yen and SARS did not bode well, a research firm said on Thursday.

"In contrast to the severe state of the economy, the number of bankruptcies has stabilized but the potential for further rises continues to be there," independent research firm Teikoku Databank said in a report.

Bankruptcies fell to 1,514, down 7.7 percent from a year earlier, with recession-induced woes such as sliding revenues and an inability to make payments on money owed accounting for the vast majority of failures.

It was the fourth straight month of year-on-year falls and the 10th month of decline in the past year.

Bankruptcies were down 3.4 percent compared with March.

But the number of businesses being liquidated came to a worst-ever 507 cases.

Teikoku attributed the relatively mild pace of bankruptcies to efforts by companies to reduce the risk of going under—scaling back business, cutting spending and increasingly using cash instead of promissory notes to avoid trouble with banks in case of late payments.

Bankruptcy debt dropped below one trillion yen for the first time in four months to 903.06 billion yen ($7.77 billion), almost 30 percent lower than a year ago.

Only one listed firm, hotel and parking lot operator Hokkaido Shinko Co Ltd, went under in April.

But highlighting the harsh climate for Japanese firms, Teikoku pointed to listed Daiwa Construction Co. Ltd., which filed for protection from creditors on May 2.

The condominium maker was perceived to be steadily rebuilding its business but went under after a developer failed to make good on money owed.

Economists, however, tended to be more sanguine, saying the downward trend was likely to continue for some time.

"This business year we are seeing admittedly almost flat growth, but there's no actual downturn. The central bank is also providing adequate funds to banks and there is no credit crunch," said Mamoru Yamazaki, chief economist at Barclays Capital. *Reuters*

Soft US sales, price data spur worries

WASHINGTON—US consumers turned cautious in April, cutting spending on clothing, furniture and dining out, while import prices plunged at their sharpest rate ever, the government said on Wednesday.

The data fueled concerns that the economy may remain sluggish despite an easing of consumer anxieties after the war in Iraq. Bond prices surged, with yields falling to their lowest level in four decades. Stock prices eased, with the Dow Jones industrial average dropping 31 points to 8,648.

The Commerce Department said retail sales slid 0.1 percent in April, in contrast to economists' expectations for a gain of 0.4 percent. Excluding automobiles, sales slumped 0.9 percent, the biggest monthly drop since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"The consumer is starting out the second quarter on a very weak note," said economist Chris Rupkey at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. in New York. "The Federal Reserve is inching closer toward taking action."

Also worrying to economists was a 2.7 percent drop in import prices in April reported by the Labor Department.

The record decline in import prices comes as the Fed keeps an eye on the risk of deflation, the economy-wide drop in prices that is now plaguing Japan.

When the Fed last met on May 6, it decided to leave interest rates unchanged at 1961 lows, but it warned of a possible "unwelcome substantial fall in inflation."

Analysts took that to imply that the central bank could be poised to act soon to cut interest rates further if economic statistics did not improve.

But most economists said neither the sales data nor import price data would provide an ample trigger for a rate cut.

The monthly employment report, due out on June 6, is likely to be the most significant piece of evidence the Fed will consider ahead of its next meeting on June 24-25. The employment figures have been gloomy lately as the economy has shed more than half a million jobs over the last three months. *Reuters*

US-S. Korea summit sets aside trade friction

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush and his South Korean counterpart Roh Moo-Hyun put aside simmering trade friction in a bid to boost fragile investor confidence at their White House summit on Wednesday.

Their joint effort reflected concerns over the performance of both economies, to which the political destiny of both presidents may well be tied.

"The two leaders agreed on the importance of working together to promote prosperity in their two countries," said a joint statement released after the 30-minute summit.

"They agreed that Korea's economic fundamentals are strong and expressed high confidence in the propects for continued increases in trade, investment and growth in the Republic of Korea," it said.

The United States is the biggest export market for South Korea, a leading Asian economy which has recently suffered from the North Korean nuclear crisis amid sagging consumer and foreign investor confidence.

Roh's US trip, which officially began with a significant visit Monday to the New York Stock Exchange, focused on repairing strained ties with Washington, hoping a knock on effect would inject new confidence in the South Korean economy.

In the first quarter to March, South Korea's growth in industrial output slowed to 5.9 percent, down from 7.1 percent for the same period last year. The central bank and the government have scaled back their economic growth forecasts.

"The two leaders expressed a desire for enhanced bilateral economic cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to resolve bilateral trade issues through consultation, and agreed to explore ways to further strengthen the already close economic and trade partnership," the summit statement said.

But trade friction lingered as US and South Korean trade negotiators were locked in talks Wednesday as a deadline loomed in a dispute over South Korean memory chips Washington says are unfairly subsidized.

Before talks with Bush, Roh met senior US economic leaders here, and negotiators from both sides grappled with the chips row in Paris.

Seoul is seeking a deal to suspend US tariffs in return for a cut in dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chip shipments to the United States, said a statement issued from Roh's travelling office in Washington. *AFP*

Reserving municipal . . .

From page B4

by the new DA order, the municipality must also redefine its municipal waters consistent with the DA's guidelines.

There is no controversy over the 15-kilometer rule from the main shoreline. There is some controversy over this rule as applied to inhabited offshore islands. There is much controversy over this rule as applied to uninhabited offshore islands. While commercial fishers entering the inhabited island's 15 kilometer limit will prejudice that island's small fishers, this will not be true for uninhabited islands since there are no fishers there. The counter argument is that small fishers from other areas can go to these waters. There is also a need for governance of these areas, which is currently under the municipal government.

Namria should immediately resume the delineation of municipal waters in the following priority order: Municipalities with no offshore islands; those with inhabited offshore islands, and those with uninhabited offshore islands. Rather than wait for the issuance of the DA guidelines, Namria should take action on municipal waters, even if this is done in phases. This is better than no action at all. In this way, the much ado about fisheries and DAO 17 will be addressed immediately.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries > or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com. or telefax 02-8516635)

Asian stocks dropped; dollar struggles

SINGAPORE—Asian shares dropped and the dollar wobbled on Thursday after US stocks fell and bond yields sank to 45-year lows, as weak US retail sales raised the chances of a Federal Reserve interest rate cut.

The return to a mood of anxious uncertainty that pervaded markets before the Iraq war put safe-haven plays back in the limelight. The dollar struggled back above its latest 10-month low versus the yen in Asian trade, but was likely to stay under pressure, with the market seeing a test of wills between Washington and its trading partners over currency management.

The overnight jump in the yen and a modest fall on Wall Street threw cold water on Japan's recent stock rally and most other Asian markets were down as well in morning trade.

Tokyo's Nikkei average fell 1.91 percent to 8,087.63 by the mid-session break, after ending on Wednesday at a five-week high. The broader Topix was off 1.62 percent at 818.48.

Investors were uninspired by stock-boosting steps economic ministers unveiled on Wednesday, saying they lacked punch.

"We've had a little bit of a run, but that has run out of steam," said Robert Jameson, senior sales trader at Instinet Japan. "If the US market starts to come off, that could drag things back down here."

South Korea was one of the few bright spots in Asia, rising 0.75 percent after truck drivers at the world's third-busiest port at Pusan agreed to end a week-long strike,

Hong Kong was flat, Australia was down 0.72 percent and Taiwan 0.83 percent.

Growing expectations for lower interest rates sent investors on a bond-buying spree. Thirty-year US bonds jumped nearly two full points on Wednesday and their yield hit 4.50 percent, a record low since they were first issued in the early 1970s.

Ten-year US Treasuries were yielding around 3.52 percent in Asia, testing a 45-year low of 3.51 percent.

"People might be saying, 'Gee, the bond market may be smarter than us, and deflation and a weak economy are a lot more likely than we were thinking it was,'" said Henry Herrmann, chief investment officer at Waddell & Reed.

Traders were watching to see if Japan scales back its yen-buying moves, after US Treasury Secretary John Snow's blunt criticism this week about government currency interventions.

Some currency analysts say Japan is determined to stop the yen from strengthening beyond 115 per dollar, a level seen as the break-even point for many Japanese exporters.

The market is awaiting fresh US indicators due on Thursday, including producer prices, industrial production and a survey of mid-Atlantic manufacturing activity.

Weak figures could raise worries about deflation in the US economy, after the Federal Reserve warned of the risk of falling prices, and could accelerate dollar selling, dealers said. *Reuters*

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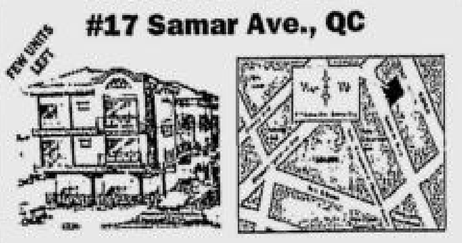

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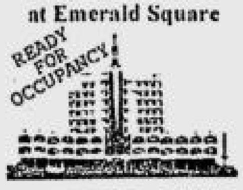

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DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City
Tel No. 082-2219400 Tele Fax 082-2264885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Due to the failure of the previous bidding on the following items, the Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery for the following Pumps and Motors:

Item Package	Description		Ceiling of Bid Price
1	75 Hp VTP & Motor PW-21	P	750,000.00
2	100Hp VTP & Motor PW-28		800,000.00
3	7 units 450HP Horizontal Split Case Pumps		6,442,408.00
4	7 units 475HP Horizontal Electric Motors-		3,409,147.00
5	Capacitor Banking System		1,750,000.00
	TOTAL	P	13,151,555.00

Eligibility requirements per item package are available at the Purchasing Division Office starting May 9, 2003 during its business hours. Deadline for the submission of eligibility documents/requirements will be on or before May 26, 2003.

Bid documents may be released only to applicants with a Notice of Eligibility upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P300.00 per package for packages 1&2 and P500 per package for packages 3, 4 and 5 respectively, starting June 3, 2003.

Pre-bidding is set on June 23, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. and the Opening of Bids on June 27, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the DCWD Conference Room.

Parties that had been previously declared eligible and have already acquired the necessary bid documents covering the above mentioned packages are automatically eligible to participate and to bid.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality informality of the bids and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ALFONSO E. LAID
AGM for Administration
Chairman, Bid & Canvass Committee

(PDI - May 9 & 16, 2003)

CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & BID
on the following:

1. 5 years lease of Trellis Area-West (292 sq.m.) at the Liwasang ASEAN, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
2. 5 years lease of Trellis Area-East (292 sq.m.) at the Liwasang ASEAN, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
3. Supply of labor tools, equipment and materials for the installation of one (1) unit vertical in line multi-stage centrifugal pump

You may secure checklist of requirements from Mr. Ed Duque, Office of the Vice President, Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City Tel. Nos. 832-3680 or 832-1125 loc 1101. Deadline for inquiry is on Tuesday, May 29, 2003 until 5:00 p.m.

The CCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof without offering any reason, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government, and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the CCP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in participating to the undertaking nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) SID HILDAWA
Chairman, CCPBAC

(PDI – May 16 & 18, 2003)

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892-5578, 811-4361
811-4370

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528-0213, 527-3342

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635-0219, 635-0220

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM

A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1596 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER
For a Foreign-Assisted Program-Mindanao

A U.S. consulting engineering company contracted by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program is seeking expressions of interest from individuals applying for the above position.

This is a senior level position for a fixed-term engagement beginning on or about June 15, 2003 through August 14, 2007 with Davao City as the official duty station.

The work entails managing the administrative and other support units of the GEM Project Management Office including but not limited to the accounting, office admin, motor pool, and network system administration. The Administrative Manager shall:

- Provide guidance to the Chief Accountant in the areas of project accounting, budgeting, financial monitoring, maintenance of financial records, and compliance with USAID financial reporting requirements;
- Provide guidance to the system network administrator in the management and efficient utilization of the program IT resources;
- Oversee the operations of the motor pool unit;
- Supervise the work of the office management unit with respect to office maintenance and housekeeping, security, and office supply inventory, and utilization;
- Oversee the procurement of office supplies, commodities and equipment;
- Review and recommend changes, if necessary, to company policies and procedures concerning personnel administration, employee compensation and fringe benefits structuring; and,
- Approve travel requests, cash advances, leave requests and performs other administrative related duties as Administrator

A law or accounting degree is preferred but is not necessarily a requirement. Experience in implementation of foreign-funded development programs is desirable. Non-resident individuals will have to relocate to Davao City. Compensation will be based on salary history, equivalent market rates with standard fringe benefit packages.

Interested individuals are requested to submit original copies of their letter of interest, statement of experience and qualifications, and salary history within 5 working days of publication of this ad to the following address:

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. Unit 3, 12/F, ExportBank Plaza, Sen. Gil J. Puyat corner Don Chino Roces Avenues, Makati City, 1200. Tel. No: (02) 812-1647.

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4270 • 4214 • 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252-4284

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/SURPLUS/ UNSERVICEABLE AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS
"AS IS, WHERE IS"

ITEM	DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
Lot 1	Unserviceable/Disposable Generator Set and Auxiliary Units located at Building 2926 Power Plant, Grande Island, SBFZ, SBMA	May 30, 2002 - 2:00 PM
Lot 2	Demolition of Building 148 - PWTSG Construction & Maintenance Office/ Shop, Canal Road, CDB, SBFZ	May 30, 2003 - 2:00 PM
Lot 3	Demolition of Building 198 - LIDO Office/Management/Tire Shop	May 30, 2003 - 2:00 PM
Lot 4	Demolition of Building 384 - Transportation Admin Office, Canal Road, CBD, SBFZ	May 30, 2003 - 2:00 PM
Lot 5	Demolition of Building 728 - Lube Oil Storage, Canal Road, CBD, SBFZ	May 30, 2003 - 2:00 PM
Lot 6	Demolition of Building 127 - Air Compressor Shed, Dewey Avenue, SBFZ	May 30, 2003 - 2:00 PM

I. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Bldg. 709, SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
   1. Certificate of Accreditation as Scrap Hauler from Trade & Tourism Group or PPMD, SBMA.
   2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR 2003) of the bidder or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

II. Deadline of submission of the Pre-Qualification Papers is on **May 21, 2003, Wednesday (5:00 PM)**. No extension.

III. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on **May 26, 2003, Monday (3:00 PM)**.

IV. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

V. Inspection will strictly be by group on the following schedules:

LOT	DATE	TIME
1	May 22, 2003	- 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	May 23, 2003	- 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

VI. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel. Nos. (047) 2524613 / 4219 (c/o Mr. Dennis Baviera).

VII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 8th of May 2003.

(Sgd.) **CAPT. VICTOR L. MAMON**
SDA for Operation
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PDI - May 10 & 16, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 633-93-42
Direct Line : 631-96-40
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2007 / 221

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PSD 03-05-13

The Department of Education through the Payroll Services Division is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for 3,500 boxes of tabulating stock forms, 5 ply, size – 11" x 14 7/8", graylines with both sides perforation, 70 gsm for the 1st sheet and 56 gsm for the 2nd to 5th sheets. For purposes of record and in compliance with the law, the Department has an approved budget of P2,408,000.00 for the supply, delivery and administrative cost.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **May 16-28, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at ***http://www.deped.gov.ph.***

A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 23, 2003**, 2:00 p.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **June 6, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI–May 16 & 23, 2003)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna

INVITATION TO BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for the public bidding of Boom Truck for the Physical Plant Maintenance Services Office (PPMSO) and Steam Sterilizer for Biotech with approved budget of 2.2M and 2M.

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO).

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Issuance of Bid Documents	May 19-21/8:30 am-5:00 pm	SPMO
Pre-Bid Conference	May 26, 2003, Mon./10:00 am	SPMO
Opening/submission of bids	June 9, 2003, Mon./10:00 am	SPMO

Bidders shall submit two (2) sealed envelopes containing a) TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS (e.g. qualification requirements indicated in the checklist, bid security as to form, amount and validity period, authority of signatory, after sales service/parts, catalogues/brochures/other literatures, etc.); and b) FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS at the Supply and Property Management Office, UPLB.

The UPLB reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the UPLB. The UPLB likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **TERESITA M. ESPINO**
Chair, BAC

(PDI–May 8 & 16, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

HIRING OF RESEARCH EXPERTS/GROUP FOR THE IMPACT STUDY ON LOCALIZATION FOR CIDSS CONSULTING SERVICES

IFB No. GOP/03-DSWD-003

The Department of Social Welfare and Development now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services such as the following:

1. Consultants must have an extensive experience/capability in research and evaluation of social development programs/projects research which may be measured not so much in the number of years as a research organization but more on the kind/quality research projects undertaken
2. Has a core of trained and competent professionals familiar with social development programs of the government
3. Specific skills in conducting participatory research would be an advantage. The research study would require certain experience, skills, knowledge/familiarity and qualifications in conducting research studies along the social welfare and development arena, social science, community development and other related fields.

Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below.

Expressions of interest and Eligibility Requirements must be delivered to the address below by **May 21, 2003.**

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary and
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee-I
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills,
Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9318161
Fax No. (632) 9316146

(PDI--May 9 & 16, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of **Records Management System** for the Commission. Those who were previously registered need not register.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **12 May 2003** to be submitted not later than **23 May 2003, 5:00 P.M.**, through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **May 29 to 30, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Pre-bid Conference will be on **June 13, 2003 at 2:00 P.M.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **July 30, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. and 30 July 2003 at 2:15 P.M.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit **five (5) separate sealed envelopes**; one (1) envelope containing the eligibility requirements, two (2) envelopes containing the technical component of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and two (2) envelopes containing the financial component of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40"**.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO V. CABARIOS
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--May 9 & 16, 2003)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF JUNK/ SCRAP, SERVICEABLE/UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS
DATE OF BIDDING: MAY 29, 2003

The National Power Corporation will conduct a public bidding for the following items:

	ITEMS DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	One (1) lot Unserviceable/Busted Fluorescent Tubes, Bulbs, Mercury & other type Lamps, various Junk and Unserviceable items, such as Automotive spare parts, etc. located at Bldg. 2, Podium and Machine Room, Roof deck, Bldg. 2, NPC-Diliman, Q.C	P 4,537.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot Used and Serviceable Fluorescent Tubes and Ballasts, located at Bldg. 2 basement, NPC, Diliman, Q.C	P70,000.00/lot
3.	One (1) lot Used and Unserviceable Printing Machine, consisting of Plate-maker, Electrostatic, model PM-60, Brand ELEFAX, s/n. 231763 and Off-Set machine, 1650 CD Basic Offset w/ chain delivery, Brand MULTI, Located at NPC OBC, Diliman, Quezon City.	P64,000.00/lot
4.	One (1) lot Scrap and Junk items, consisting of 7 pcs. Perkins Engine blocks, Air-cons, Computers, auto spare parts, Diesel engine parts, I-Beams, channels, steel parts, etc. approx. 25 tons. This Lot is on a Clean-Up Basis. Located at SPUG, Minuyan, SJDM, Bulacan	P75,000.00/lot
5.	One (1) lot Used and Unserviceable Steel Tower Parts, approx. 30 tons, consisting of deformed angular bars and steel plates of various lenghts/sizes, located at NPC Kalayaan stockyard, Lumban, Laguna	P 121,500.00/ lot

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 3:00 p.m. of May 29, 2003 at the Materials Management Department Office, Ground Floor, Bldg. I, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read. For bid forms at P50.00 per set, additional information and request for inspection, please see Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr. at the above address or call telephone no. 922-8431 or 9245-384. Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 4:30 p.m. on May 28, 2003. All bids must be submitted with the following:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2002) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED COPY).

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposal as may be advantageous to its interest.

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd.) F. B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI - May 14, 15 & 16, 2003)

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P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines
Tel. 632-4306/4301; Fax No. (632) 636-2577

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Procurement of Duplexing Digital Copiers Under RP No. 03-1224

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) now invites sealed Bids from Bidders for the supply, delivery and installation of duplexing digital copiers as defined in the Technical Specifications of the Instructions to Bidders of the Bidding Document (hereinafter referred to as the "Goods").
2. Local competitive bidding exercise will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage: Single-Envelope procedure, and is open to all interested Bidders.
3. Bidders may obtain further information about the bid requirements from the Bidding Document to be issued by the ADB through Head, Procurement Section, Office of Administrative Services, Room S1636, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, 0401 Metro Manila, Philippines, Fax Nos. (63-2) 636-2577/(63-2) 631-6899, Tel. Nos. (63-2) 632-4306/4301, and e-mail: chsum@adb.org or nmanalo@adb.org or csoriano@adb.org
4. A set of Bidding Document, in the English language, is available at the above address starting on **19 May 2003** (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), Monday to Friday, upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00) at the ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.
5. The Goods are grouped into two lots, namely (a) 8 units duplexing digital copier, high volume, automatic, and (b) 10 units duplexing digital copier, high volume, high speed, automatic. Bidders may submit a proposal on one or any combination of the two lots. The ADB will evaluate and compare the bids on the basis of a lot, or a combination of the two lots in a manner most economical and advantageous to ADB.
6. Bids must be delivered to the above address by 2:00 p.m. on **18 June 2003.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of not less than 2% of the total bid price. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at OAS Conference Room, Room 4522N, 2:05 p.m., **18 June 2003.**
7. The ADB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

Asad Shah
Director-General
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI--May 16 & 17, 2003)

Magsaysay keynotes 34th National Marketing Confab

MAGSAYSAY

SENATOR Ramon "Jun" Magsaysay, Jr. will be the keynote speaker during the two-day National Marketing Conference (NMC) to be mounted by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) on May 28 & 29 at the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza.

The only son of the late and beloved Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay, Jun was elected to Congress as the representative for the lone district of Zambales at the age of 27. After four years of public service, he went back to being a private citizen and ventured into several businesses.

Armed with a medical engineering degree from De La Salle and business skills acquired from the Harvard School of Business Administration and the New York University Graduate School of Business Administration, he went on to pioneer the cable television industry in the country.

In 1995, Magsaysay re-entered public service as a senator. After serving a full term of six years, he was re-elected in 2001. He currently serves as chairman of the Senate committee on banks, financial institutions and currencies.

The NMC is a gathering of the big names in marketing from the public and private sectors. Guided by the conference theme "Creative Marketing: New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies," it honors marketing success stories aimed to inspire marketers to trust their instincts and be creative.

Dr. Landa F. Jocano, the executive director of PUNLAD, Research House, Inc., begins with insights on the "Filipino Marketing Style: Understanding Why Filipino Consumers Behave the Way They Behave." It will be followed by a talk on consumer psychology by renowned psychologist/mind trainor Judy Qua with "Insight Marketing: Knowing What Your Customers Want." Salesman's Centre Inc.'s founder and president Dioscoro Garing, Jr. tackles "Relationship Marketing: High-tech and High-touch Approaches in Building Customer Loyalty." Dave Guerrero, chairman and creative director of BBDO Guerrero Ortega will unveil concepts on "Imaginative Marketing: Advertising that Delivers Results."

The second day opens with a session on avenues of expansion and development with "Channel Marketing: Discovering New Opportunities for Growth" by professor Tomas Lopez of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM). Jay Bernardo, president of JAD Group of Companies will share his thoughts and experiences on "Trade Marketing: Outsourcing New Business Opportunities." Jan Willem Adrian, regional marketing and product development manager of Spring will show how to creatively spread the word around with "Sizzling Marketing Promotions: Hot Button Strategies That Work." Dr. Jose Ramon Albert of the Statistical Resources & Training Center will discuss the importance of being one step ahead with "Predictive Marketing: Data Mining to Optimize Results." Nick Fontanilla, president of the Asia Pacific Center for Research will present methods on "Enhancing Profitability: Managing Emergent Products in an Emergent Marketplace." Howard Belton, president of Unilever will discuss "The Consummate Marketer: Moving Towards Excellence." Henry Tenedero, president of Center for Teaching and Learning Styles and the number one speaker of last year's conference, will challenges with "The Creative Marketer: Where Do You Go From Here?"

For further inquiries, please call the PMA Secretariat at 892-3144/813-0466/893-7127/893-6459 or fax 892-3261 or e-mail pma@philonline.com.

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CECILLE SUBIDA ABADAM

died on May 14 at the Capitol Medical Center of a lingering illness. She was 42.

She is survived by husband **Samuel**, and children **Michael, Kevin, Celine**. Her body is now at the St. Joseph Memorial Chapel in Mayamot, Antipolo City. Burial is on Sunday, 9 a.m. at the Heaven's Gate Memorial Park in Antipolo City.

ATTY. PASCUAL "PJ" JAVIER

Former City Attorney and
Assistant Provincial Fiscal of Nueva Ecija

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on the 13th day of May 2003 at the age of 81.

Loving husband to **Paula (Puring)**; loving father to **Amelita** and **David Jansen, Monina** and **Nimrod Javier, Irma** and **Roy Ignacio, Rosalyn** and **Louie Padolina, Girlie, Baby** and **Michael**.

His body lies in state at 285 Rigor St., Magsaysay Dist., Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 18, 2003 at
Sagrada Familia Memorial Park,
Kap. Pepe Subd., Cabanatuan City.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

RAMON CASAS Y ORENSE

**ENTREGO SU ALMA AL CREADOR EL DIA
12 DE MAYO, 2003 DESPUES DE HABER RECIBIDO LOS
SANTOS AUXILIOS DE LA SANTA IGLESIA.**

SUS DESCONSOLADOS ESPOSA **MARIE CHRISTINE**, HIJOS **ALEXIS Y GHISLAIN**, HERMANA **LOURDES**, HERMANOS **JOSE, RAFAEL (†) Y LUIS**, SUEGRO Y SUEGRA, CUÑADOS Y CUÑADA, SOBRINOS Y SOBRINAS Y DEMAS PARIENTES RUEGAN AL PIADOSO LECTOR UNA ORACION POR EL ETERNO DESCANSO DE SU ALMA.

EL ENTIERRO TENDRA LUGAR EN STRASBURGO, FRANCIA, EL DIA 19 DE MAYO, 2003.

---

*"... for your faithful people life is changed, not ended.
When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death
we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven."
(Preface of Christian Death I
Daily Roman Missal)*

Caracciolo "Cary" C. Gomez

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 14, 2003.

His loving wife **Connie**; children **Carol, Christine** and **Clifford, Tess**; in-laws **Jose, Alice, Edwin, Malou**; relatives and close friends, request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Tanguile Chapel, La Funeraria Paz (inside Manila Memorial Park) Sucat, Parañaque City.

He will be laid to rest at the Manila Memorial Park on Sunday, 18 May 2003 at 10:00 a.m. after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

The Santiago Family, consisting of children,
Alma, Linda, Jaime, Rene, Amor, and **Henry**,
wishes to announce
the passing away of their father

Isagani Santiago

Former Dean of the College of Business Administration,
Philippine Christian University

His remains lie in state at Sandmeier United Methodist Church
159 7th Avenue cor. P. Sevilla St. Grace Park, Kalookan City.

Necrological service will be on Sunday, May 18
at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.
Interment will follow at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

BENJAMIN (BENJO) M. MENDOZA, JR.

of Blue Ridge, Quezon City

*has peacefully joined our Creator
on the 12th day of May 2003 at the age of 43.*

His bereaved wife **Ma. Cristina**; children **Fonz & Steffi**; parents **Benjamin J. Mendoza** (†) and **Lourdes Malicsi Mendoza**; sisters **Bonita, Eileen & Binky**; brother **Chris** & sister-in-law **Kris**; nephews **Justin & Ryan**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Holy Mass will be offered at 8:00 p.m. daily.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2003.

Cremation will immediately follow at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

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*In Loving Memory
on the 36th Death Anniversary of*

EDILBERTO "EDDY" G. YABUT

who joined our Lord on May 17, 1967

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, Saturday, May 17, 2003 at the following churches:

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, *Makati City*	6:00 A.M.
St. John Bosco Parish, *Makati City*	7:30 A.M.
Carmel Shrine, *Quezon City*	6:00 A.M.
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish, *Quezon City*	6:30 A.M.
St. Joseph Cathedral, *Baguio City*	6:15 A.M.
Pink Sisters, *Baguio City*	6:30 A.M.
Baguio Cathedral, *Baguio City*	6:30 A.M.
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, *Cebu City*	6:00 A.M.
Redemptorist Church, *Cebu City*	7:00 A.M.
Sta. Ana Shrine Parish, *Davao City*	6:00 A.M.
San Agustin Cathedral, *Cagayan de Oro City*	5:30 P.M.
St. Ferdinand Cathedral, *Lucena City*	6:00 P.M.
Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion, *Batangas City*	6:15 A.M.
Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral, *Tuguegarao City*	6:30 A.M.

His family requests friends and kin to remember him in their prayers.

---

*"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened
and I will give you rest."
- Matthew 13:28*

JOSEFA LAINEZ SALUD

*was peacefully united with her Creator
and her loving husband Jose V. Salud (†)
on May 15, 2003 at the age of 98.*

Her children **Tito** (†) and **Aida, Ben** and **Chit, Rudy** and **Pampin**, and **Ineng** and **Jimmy**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Mortuary of the Parish of Sta. Maria della Strada, Katipunan Road, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Interment follows at the Court of Devotion, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Sunday, May 18, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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**DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
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BIR team to probe excessive VAT claims

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is set to form an auditing team that will investigate the reported excessive claims of input value added tax credits by big industry players.

In a meeting between top BIR officials and Rep. Herminio Teves of the House committee on ways and means last week, the congressman urged the bureau to check on the possible over declaration of tax credits by some industries.

"We are coming up with an auditing team that will work on input VAT claims filed by these industries to see how we can address this concern," said Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. in an interview.

According to Parayno, Teves presented a report to the BIR showing a list of industries suspected of abusing the VAT provision for input credits claims.

Included in the solon's report were the soft drinks, drugs and medicines, cement, sugar, telecommunications, sea and land transport and insurance businesses.

In his report, Teves pointed out that the soft drinks, drugs and medicines and sugar industries assumed a small amount of net VAT obligation for the years 2001 and 2002.

He said the soft drinks industry paid only a 3- and 2.3-percent net VAT in 2001 and 2002, respectively; drugs and medicines, 2.2 and 2.4 percent, and the cement industry, 4.8 percent for both years.

The congressman also asked how the BIR could detect and prevent the recycling of tax credits, hinting that some taxpayers might be claiming tax credits that they had already claimed before.

He cited that in 2001 and 2002, input VAT of the following industries exceeded their output VAT: telecommunication, manufacturing of plastics and synthetic rubber, and manufacturing of fertilizers.

Revenue Deputy Commissioner Lilian Hefti, who was also assigned to head the large taxpayers division, said the bureau was prepared to come up with an auditing system that can detect whether input VAT claims were accurate.

"The BIR could detect whether taxpayers are declaring accurate amounts of input tax credits by matching their input tax claims with backup documents such as sales records of suppliers," said Hefti.

Hefti said the BIR would also employ the use of the Relief (reconciliation of listings for enforcement) auditing system to detect possible VAT violations.

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11 firms keen on buying state's Malampaya stake

By Clarissa S. Batino

AT LEAST 11 companies have expressed interest in buying 5 to 10 percent of the government's equity in the $2-billion Malampaya natural gas project.

Among the interested bidders are Shell Exploration B.V. and Chevron Texaco Corp., which own a 45-percent stake each in the project, sources said.

Other foreign companies engaged in the energy business are also keen on the project.

The government, however, has yet to decide whether it would sell half or all its stake in the gas-to-power project.

The finance department wanted to sell the entire government block but the energy department insisted on retaining half of the 10 percent "because of its (the project) strategic value."

The government, through the PNOC Exploration Corp., owns 10 percent of the Malampaya project.

The sale of the state's holdings in the project was estimated to raise $350 million to $400 million for the government.

The government had scheduled the sale of its stake in the natural gas project last year but issues such as the mode of privatization had delayed the implementation of the plan.

Aside from a block sale, the government had considered selling the shares through the stock market through a secondary offering of PNOC Exploration Corp. or PNOC EC.

The company last year appointed as financial adviser ING Barings for the sale of the Malampaya stake. A well-placed source said PNOC finally agreed to put the stake on the auction block but it wanted to sell only 5 percent.

Discovered by Shell Exploration, the natural gas in Malampaya in Northern Palawan could yield 3 trillion cubic feet of gas that could be used to fuel up to 3,000 megawatts of electricity for 20 years.

This is equivalent to more than half of the electricity requirements of Luzon even during peak hours.

Toyota re-enters subcompact car market in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. is re-entering the subcompact market with the introduction of the Vios, which is hoped to fare better in sales than the Echo.

Toyota Philippines president Nobuharu Tabata said: "We believe the new Vios will help jumpstart the automotive industry and give it a much-needed boost. The Vios has been successful when it was introduced in Thailand and Taiwan this year but it is here in the Philippines where it will make the loudest noise."

Tabata has targeted sales of 300 units a month for the Vios which should push up Toyota's passenger car sales to over 1,000 units a month.

This is expected to solidify its position as the leading passenger car brand in the market (it has a 43-percent share of passenger car sales) amid the aggressive marketing strategy of Honda Cars Philippines Inc. and Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp. that launched their latest City and Lancer models recently. The City, Lancer and the Vios are all imported as completely built-up units from Thailand.

Toyota launched the Echo subcompact two years ago to complement its main sedan line—the Corolla—which has been refocused to cater to the middle-market buyers. Tabata said the Vios should capture the desire of the fastest growing market segment, the young generation, with its exciting body design and handsome interior features.

The Echo, which enjoyed strong sales in Europe, did not sustain interest among local buyers that forced the company to phase out the model here.

Local assemblers have tweaked their passenger car line in anticipation of the changes in the vehicle excise taxes that would reduce the tax rate of passenger cars from a minimum of 15 percent to only 3 percent.

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

ALCANESES with his "Apak" sandals

Mountaineer makes sandals with lifetime warranty

By Madonna T. Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAPAN CITY—It all started as a mountain adventure that became a hobby, then a profitable business.

Richard Alcaneses, 28, began mountaineering in 1992 when he was a computer science freshman.

While hanging around fellow Mount Halcon enthusiasts, mostly Mindoro-based Sialdang Mountaineers Club members, he experimented with making sandals out of simple rubber tires bought from the hardware that he tied with plain-colored straps bought from Divisoria.

The first pairs were called "mojos," which became a byword. Later on, Alcaneses registered his products as "Apak" to sound more indigenous and hence, appeal to the masses.

He started off by copying the designs of other footwear until he eventually came up with his own styles: universal (his first design), thongs/tsinelas, water sandals or "aqua" (with buckles), vectra, prophet (as children call them), fluid (customer's request) and teva (a download style from the Internet).

Recycled tires for soles

To make his products more affordable at P120-P130 per pair, he switched to recycled tires for the soles. This makes his products different from other brands like Tribu. Other people resell his products at P180.

The simple and practical designs of Apak attracted the City Trade and Industry Department (CTID), thus, his products were included in the tourist's booth in Calapan port.

Since then, Apak was able to penetrate the markets in popular tourist spot Puerto Galera. Another consignee is Boboy Francisco, adviser to the UP mountaineers.

From footwear, Alcaneses came up with other products such as the neck wallet (P150), cellphone case (P50), organizer (P350), bags (P700) and covers for motorbikes and scooters as requested by his customers.

To help the Mangyans of Min-

MOUNTAINEER/B2-2

It takes leadership to steer a small business to success

By Mario Sanchez
Contributor

WHY is it that some small businesses become large faster than others do? Is it because these successful small businesses are managed well?

Well, yes, they are indeed managed well. But for them to become successful businesses faster takes more than good management. It takes leadership to steer a small enterprise to become successful.

What is leadership?

A leader and a manager both can get things done. A manager uses control (pain or pleasure) to get things done. A leader uses his influence. Leadership is about influencing people to follow, while management focuses on maintaining systems and processes.

How do you develop a culture of leadership in your small business? Maybe author John C. Maxwell in his international bestseller "the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership (1998)" can help you. Let me give you some of my insights of his books so you can become the leader of your own business.

1. You must aim high and have reachable goals for you and employees to rally behind.

2. Leaders are readers, leaders are learners. If you don't know what you don't know, you will never grow as a leader. To lead tomorrow, start learning today, and learning never stops.

3. Plan ahead. Predetermine a course of action, lay our your goals, adjust your priorities, notify key personnel, allow time for acceptance, head into action, expect problems, always point to the successes, review your plan daily.

4. It's your character that makes you a leader. It makes your employees, customers, and suppliers trust you and trust makes leadership possible. Gain their trust and you start to succeed in business. Eventually, you will attain their respect. Make sound decisions, admitting your mistakes, and putting what's best for everyone ahead of your personal agenda.

5. Respect builds up from being admired as a person, then as a friend, then as a leader. Do this and they will follow you. As a leader, you also follow a bigger and better leader. The saddest day is when you're number one. The greatest test of respect from a follower comes when a leader creates major change in an organization.

A leader has to read the situation and know instinctively what play to call but with an informed instinct. Natural ability + learned skills = informed intuition. Identify the problem, identify possible solutions, then choose one solution and move into action.

7. When you want good people to join you, you should become like them too. Hiring people is not determined by what you want but by who you are. You can buy or hire good people but they will not stay if they are not attracted to you. Become like them, if not better, and they will stay and join you instead.

8. You can't move people into action unless you first move them with emotion. The heart comes before the head. Connect with your employees, your suppliers, and your customers. Build relationships. You initiate the moves as a leader. Your business must build people not people building the business. Listen and show genuine care for others. Let them talk to you about themselves, instead of you talking about yourself.

9. A leader's potential is determined by those closest to him. Associate yourself with winners. Winners pull you up.

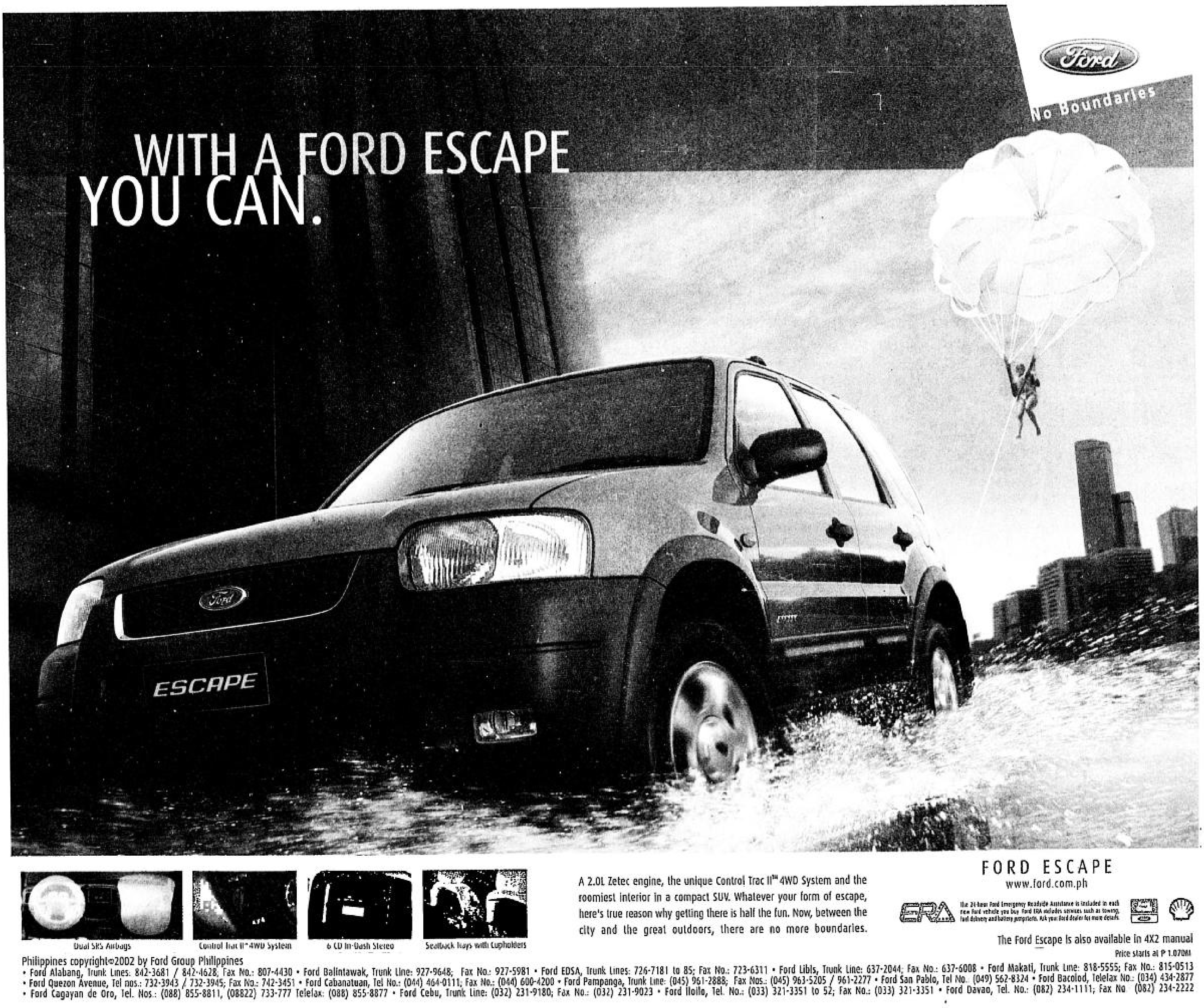
10. The only way to make you indispensable is to make yourself dispensable. The greatest things happen when you give others credit. Remember: What gets rewarded gets done. Lead by lifting others. When you push people down, you have to go down with them.

11. The leader finds the dream and then the people. The people find the leader and then the dream. You are the messenger. They follow the messenger and not the message. Allow your people enough time to buy into your vision. Communicate the vision well.

12. Preparation is key to momentum. Slowly but surely as the train gains momentum, it can break down walls that it cannot at slower speeds. You can create momentum, if you can't you're not a leader. Momentum helps leaders look better than they are. When they do, followers perform better than they are.

13. Sacrifice is constant in leadership, not a one-time payment. Be frugal in your business. As you rise in leadership, your responsibilities increase while your rights decrease (right to sleep?).

14. Develop leaders to zoom your business further. Leave when you're on top and the successor is ready to carry on. Prepare to leave. When leaders leave, success continues, the business becomes a company, the company a conglomerate! *(The author wrote three best-selling business books on how to start and manage your own business.)*



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Small businesses' woe is still lack of capital

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Long operating "underground" but nonetheless helping spur the economy in this province, several small businesses in Pangasinan went into the open and proudly displayed their wares at the Pista'y Dayat (sea festival) trade fair held here recently.

Among these is Jimmy's Bamboo Crafts, owned by couple Jimmy and Gilda Marquez of Sta. Barbara town.

For years, the husband and wife team has been manufacturing sala sets, beds and other bamboo furniture that they sell cheap to a middleman who, in turn, decorates and sells these at higher prices.

"We did not have the capital so we could not improve our products then," Gilda says.

But through a P70,000 loan from the Small Business Integrated Development of the provincial government and with encouragement of the program's personnel, the Marquez couple was able to improve their products and showcased these in the trade fair.

Gilda says they sold several beds and sala sets during the trade fair and got many orders for delivery in the coming days.

She says the secret of their bamboo furniture is the mature bamboo that they use.

Another small business that participated in the trade fair was the Alaminos Longganisa owned by Emmanuel and Letty Onia of Alaminos City.

Emmanuel, a former soldier, says it was his wife who started the home-based business in 1996.

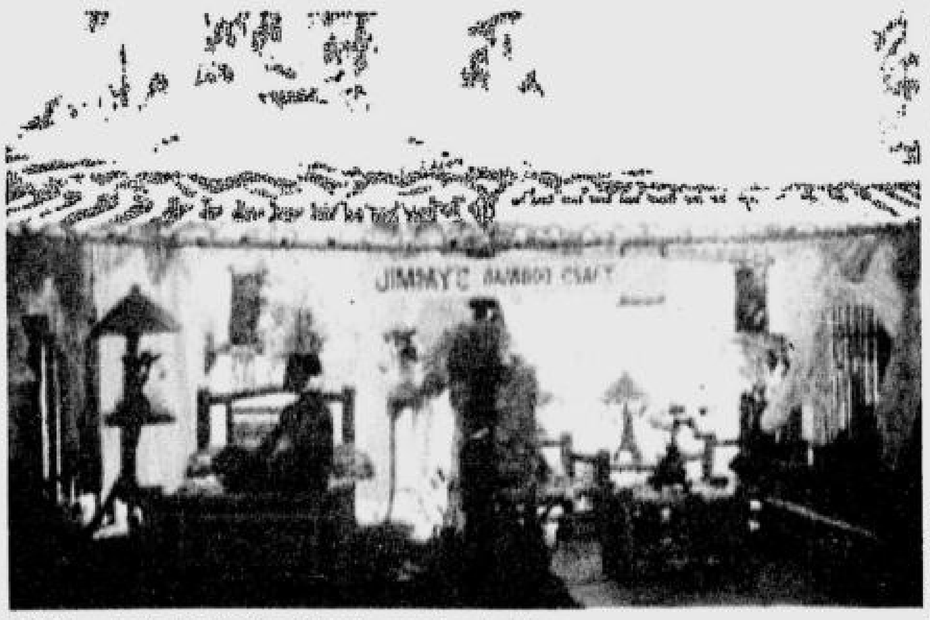
Almost every week the couple got orders from their Metro Manila-based clients but Emmanuel says the enterprise was hampered by lack of capital.

When he learned about the loan being given out by the provincial government to small businessmen like them, he applied and was given a P50,000 loan.

During the Pista'y Dayat trade fair, the Alaminos Longganisa was one of the best sellers. It earned a gross income of P23,090 during the 10-day fair.

Emmanuel says Alaminos Longganisa differs from other varieties because it does not use artificial preservatives. The product's color is derived from achuete and its ingredients are very basic like ground pork, pepper, salt and lots of garlic.

Then there's Bella's Puto, which earned P36,000 during the trade fair. The outlet is a member of the Calasiao Puto Makers Cooperative, one of the first beneficiaries of the provincial government's loan program.



BEDS and sala sets made of bamboo are best sellers.

LOCAL officials view the clay pots on display.

Luzviminda Muego, provincial livelihood program manager, says the puto makers used to buy their supplies like rice and sugar individually. Then they organized into a cooperative and availed themselves of a loan from the provincial government.

Now, Muego says, each puto maker buys supplies from the cooperative. In return, the members get patronage refund from the sales that they convert into capital shares or savings.

These micro-enterprises get a new lease on life with loans from the provincial government to enable them to strengthen and expand their ventures and generate employment in their villages.

Gov. Victor Agbayani started the province's integrated small business development in 2000. It aimed to develop and upgrade the province's existing micro-enterprises into small or medium businesses.

For more than 10 years now, the provincial government has been giving loans to cooperatives and people's organizations in the province.

From these groups, some members acquired and developed entrepreneurial skills and decided to start their own businesses, Agbayani says.

He says there are small businesses in the province that cannot expand because of lack of capital. Their owners have no assets to serve as collateral for bank loans and are considered "loan risks," so they use whatever small capital they have and usually employ themselves and their family members.

"This is where the program comes in," Agbayani says.

Under the program, the provincial government helps cooperatives and individual businesses in obtaining loans from government lending institutions.

The provincial government also helps in marketing their products and improving their quality.

The program has identified several small businesses engaged in enterprises that use indigenous materials such as in clay pot making, bamboo craft, leather craft and food processing.

Other small businesses that joined the trade fair were the GNV Claypots, which makes the cooking and plant pots; Southern Binmaley Cooperative and the Dagupan-Pangasinan Bangus Processors; Mayda's Leathercraft; Cristobal's Rubber Pots; and Yoyong's Foodmine.

"Imagine, if these micro-businesses thrive and expand, they can employ several people," Agbayani says.

Delivery service firm goes into pre-need

DELIVERY service firm LBC is giving its customers a value-added product with its Professional Guaranteed Academic Fund (GAF).

A first-of-its-kind product to be offered by a delivery service firm, LBC's GAF provides for a no-lapse, no-cancellation feature.

"LBC believes in the importance of education. That's why we now offer to valued customers with children or dependents the GAF," explained Janet-Tayag Ong, managing director, specialized financial services of LBC Development Corp.

LBC says the GAF is the only pre-need academic plan that has "no-lapsation, no-cancellation" features.

LBC went into a partnership with TPG (The Professional Group) Corp., a pioneer in the pre-need industry, for GAF.

TPG is the first private pre-need pension plan company in the country. With a network of over 540 branches nationwide plus its counters in countries around Asia and Europe, LBC is providing the marketing and sales punch for the GAF.

No cancellation

LBC says the GAF is the only pre-need academic plan that has "no-lapsation, no-cancellation" features.

"The fund was designed to give customers financial benefits for their children or dependents. Every payment is equivalent to a maturity value. If a payment is missed, the plan will not lapse nor be canceled," explained Janet Tayag-Ong.

GAF also has flexible payment options which make it more convenient for the middle to lower-end income brackets—LBC's main market. "Depending on their budget, planholders can choose the payment term and mode of their plans," says Tayag-Ong.

Payment terms range from one to five years while modes of payment are monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual. "Parents or guardians can even change the payment mode as often as needed," adds Tayag-Ong.

Other features include four built-in insurance features which assure the scholar of up to 300 percent of the plan's benefit in case something should happen to the planholder.

"We even put in protection against tuition fee increases in the form of an annual increase in academic benefits by as much as 15 percent," explained Tayag-Ong.

Other benefits

Additional academic benefits in this case include cash gifts for academic achievement, incentives for scholars who became valedictorians or salutatorians in high school, magna cum laude or summa cum laude in college or even topnotchers in any professional regulatory board exams.

Professional entertainers and the expanded withholding tax

TAX TIPS

QUESTION: I am an actress who plays supporting roles in movies and on television. I expect to earn at least P900,000 a year from my acting contracts. How much tax will be withheld from my earnings?

Answer: As an actress, your talent fees are subject to either 10 percent or 20 percent expanded withholding tax, depending on your gross income for the current year. The gross income of professional entertainers like you is subject to 20 percent EWT if it exceeds P720,000, or 10 percent EWT if otherwise, pursuant to Revenue Regulations No. 12-2001.

However, the 20 percent EWT is only applied when you have actually earned an aggregate gross income of P720,000 at anytime during the year. Hence, even if you are expected to earn at least P900,000 a year, the 20 percent EWT rate should not be automatically applied. The 10 percent EWT rate will still be applied on your gross income prior to reaching the P720,000 threshold.

To determine the applicable EWT rate to be applied/withheld by the withholding agent, you should disclose to the BIR annually your gross income for the current year, by submitting a notarized sworn declaration thereof. The disclosure should be filed on June 30 of each year or within 15 days after the end of the month that your income reaches P720,000, whichever comes earlier. Should your talent fee or gross income for the current year reach P720,000 only after June 30, i.e., after you have filed your affidavit-declaration, then you should file a second affidavit declaration within 15 days after the end of the month that your gross income for the current year has reached the P720,000 threshold. You should furnish all parties paying your income (e.g., TV stations or film outfits) copies of the declaration duly stamped and received by the BIR (withholding tax division of the national office).

It is very important that you file the required affidavit-declaration with the BIR within the period required, otherwise, the payor shall withhold the tax at the rate of 20 percent, whether or not your aggregate income for the year has actually reached the P720,000 threshold.

Q: Since the tax is already withheld by the film outfit or the TV station, do I still need to file an income tax return with the BIR?

A: Yes, you are still required to file an income tax return together with the certificates of withholding tax issued by the film outfit or TV station that withheld the taxes.

The withholding tax on actors and actresses is creditable in nature because the amount withheld and remitted to the BIR by the person making an income payment (known as the withholding agent) is credited against the final income tax of the income recipient. Consequently, an actor or actress whose income is withheld at source will be deemed to have paid his tax liability when the tax due on his income is computed at the end of the tax year.

For this purpose, the law requires the withholding agent to issue a certificate of withholding tax to the person whose taxes are withheld. The taxpayer then submits the certificate of withholding tax along with his annual income tax return as proof of partial payment of his taxes so that the taxes earlier withheld may be credited against his final income tax liability. Essentially, the income recipient is required to file an income tax return, to report the income and/or pay the difference between the tax withheld and the tax due on the income based on the graduated income tax rates of the Tax Code.

Q: In computing my final income tax liability at the end of the year, am I entitled to any deduction or exemption?

A: Yes. The Tax Code allows itemized deductions from the gross income of individuals engaged in trade or profession in the Philippines, such as ordinary and necessary trade, business or professional expenses, interest, taxes, losses, bad debts, depreciation, charitable and other contributions, research and development. You are allowed to claim deductions for these expenses if you incur them in connection with your work as a professional entertainer, of course subject to the substantiation requirements and limitations prescribed by the Tax Code and BIR regulations.

In lieu of the itemized deductions, you may avail of the optional standard deduction (OSD) in an amount not exceeding 10 percent of your gross income. The intention to avail of the 10 percent OSD must be indicated in your income tax return. Otherwise, you shall be considered as having availed of the itemized deduction.

In addition, the Tax Code allows certain basic personal exemptions and additional exemptions for dependents.

In essence, your final tax liability will be arrived at by deducting from the gross income for the year the: (a) allowable deductions; (b) personal exemptions (including dependents) and (c) creditable taxes withheld, as may be proved by the certificates of taxes withheld issued by the withholding agent.

(The Tax Tips is a public service of SGV & Co. Answers to queries may not cover all potential tax liabilities and issues arising from and all reportorial requirements for taxable transactions. Readers are advised to consult their tax advisers or the Bureau of Internal Revenue. In no event shall SGV & Co. be liable for damages or claims, actual or otherwise, including those arising from tax assessments, on account of any advice given by Tax Tips." Feedbacl at sgv_information@sgv.com.ph.)

Mountaineer ...

From page B2-1

doro, he also included in his shop a consignment of Mangyan products (from Puerto Galera and Bulalacao mountains) like bracelets made of high-quality beads, that are sold at P50 a piece.

Sharing the formula

Alcaneses generously shared how a pair of Apak is done. Using a wooden foot pattern (of standard size 9), he starts with tracing the middle sole then thickens the trace with first-class rugby up to six millimeters and also the middle sole up to four ml.

The middle pad is made of tire or "liso" and utilizes dark or native colors to attract buyers. It takes about an hour to dry the footwear. To guarantee the durability of the product, the ends of the straps are burned then attached.

Starting with P50 a piece

"I started just with a cutter blade with a capital of only P50 per piece," he said.

During the first two years, he used the more expensive but durable hard matting from tires for "creep soles." His initial capital was P1,000.

First class rugby now is bought at P380 per gallon or P30 per 350 ml and tire used for the upper portion of the sandals is bought at P112 for 2 X 3 meters which is good for 30 pairs.

Today, the capital is P8,000 but the earnings per month can reach as much as P50,000, especially during the summer months when sandals are in demand.

With the encouraging results of his business in Mindoro, Alcaneses got his mind set on branching out soon to Batangas City. He says all he has to do is buy another heavy-duty sewing machine and he's in business.

He will also soon add daypacks to his list of products to cater to school children who are going back to school. When asked why Apak has become popular among people who love the outdoors, he quickly says it's customer satisfaction.

"We make sure that orders are delivered on time and we even give a lifetime warranty," he says with pride and conviction.

Shangri-La Plaza

SHANGRI-LA MALL GETS POPS
A self-confessed shopaholic, concert queen Pops Fernandez recently signed up with Shangri-La Plaza Mall as its celebrity endorser. The mall feels she represents the typical Shangri-La shopper.

Pops started her career at a young age and since then has proven her worth in different aspects be it as a host, singer, actress and as a mom.

She was able to surpass the many challenges that came her way and this has brought out the best in her.

Shown in photo are Shangri-La Plaza Corp. EVP and GM Lala I. Fojas, Pops and chair and president Tom C. Zita.

Savor The Moment CARLOS I
Drink Moderately

Fast-food salads have growers seeing green

NEW YORK—Connoisseurs craving the crimson of radicchio in their salad don't have to reserve a table at a fine restaurant, but can simply head to the local fast-food joint to get their fill of fancy leafy greens.

Gourmet lettuces once served only in swanky eateries are now widely available at the fast-food drive-thru window, and that could fuel a boom in greens if the fast-salad craze doesn't wilt.

"Salads should continue to be a growth item and the fast-food chains are certainly going to push that trend," Ken Hodge, a spokesman for the International Fresh-cut Produce Association, a trade group for produce companies.

Image problem

Battling an image problem as purveyors of obesity and seeking to rekindle sales, burger chains like McDonald's Corp. now have "premium" salads on the menu. Wendy's International Inc. has dominated the fancy fast-food salad scene, having first put them on the menu in early 2002.

In fact, salad sales helped McDonald's US restaurants in April show their first sales gain in more than a year.'

Criticized for serving food with exotic-sounding chemicals such as the anti-foaming agent dimethylpolysiloxane, McDonald's new salads contain exotic varieties of lettuce including tat soi, tango, lolla rosa and radicchio.

"I know our salads contain 15 or 16 varieties of lettuce, it's not a lot of iceberg," Bill Whitman, a spokesman for McDonald's, said.

The world's largest restaurant chain offers salads at its 13,500 US outlets and needs even more lettuce to fill the entree-sized bowls, Whitman said. Its salads were originally served in a cup.

Spur demand

While sales of fresh-cut salad in grocery stores have risen twelvefold in the last decade, fast-food chains' entry into the market for fancy salads is expected to spur more demand from consumers seeking a healthier option than a burger and fries.

Servings of salad entrees at quick-serve restaurants rose 9 percent during the past year, according to market research firm NPD Group.

The year before, salad servings had fallen 5 percent.

To be sure, lettuce volumes are up at Babe Farms in Santa Maria, California, which grows a leafy spring green mix for salads on 900 to 1,200 acres.

California farmers grow three-quarters of all US lettuce.

"Down the road, if these (fast-food) salads take off with the fast-food chains, we could really benefit," said Carrie Jordan, who scouts out new markets for the gourmet vegetables and lettuce grown at Babe Farms.

Early to tell

Because gourmet salads are new to fast-food menus, it's still too early to tell if increases in Babe's top-selling spring mix is due to demand from the chains, Jordan said.

McDonald's rolled out the salads in March and Jack In The Box Inc. started in April.

A spokeswoman for Jack In The Box said it gets its lettuce for its 1,900 stores primarily from growers in California, but also buys greens from Texas, Arizona and the Southeast as the seasons change.

Food companies such as Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc. and Performance Food Group also stand to benefit from proliferation of fast-food salads.

In its first-quarter earnings call, Fresh Del Monte said it was prepared to fill fast-food demand for produce and it already supplies grapes and apples to McDonald's in Britain.

Healthy alternatives

Performance Food's fresh-produce unit delivers salad ingredients as well as lettuce for hamburgers to more than half of McDonald's US restaurants and a spokesman said there is potential for extra business.

"It's no secret that the QSRs (quick-service restaurants) are looking for healthy alternatives for their customers," John Austin, a company spokesman, said.
Reuters

US group bats for the natural, co-brands with underwear firm

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FOR decades, cotton has been the textile of choice for manufacturing clothes particularly in Asia where the cool cotton is a boon to the hot and humid weather.

The invention of cheap synthetic fiber such as polyester and rayon, however, ate up into the sales of cotton over the past few years.

This prodded the cotton industry of the United States through the Cotton Council International to launch the Cotton USA brand in an attempt to push the use of US cotton fiber and manufactured cotton products in markets around Southeast Asia.

CCI is the export promotions arm of the National Cotton Council of America, dedicated to increasing US exports of cotton, cottonseed and their products.

MARKETING STRATEGY

CCI is funded by the National Cotton Council and private contributions from the US cotton industry.

It also receives funds from the US Department of Agriculture for overseas market development.

For the Philippines, the council has tied up with Mansfield International Inc., makers of undergarment brands Hartmann and Hanford, to embark on a co-branding campaign to perk up sales.

The campaign involves the extensive promotion of the Cotton USA mark in the marketing and advertising campaign for Hanford and Hartmann products. The mark, thus, appears in the packaging materials for the undergarments that use US cotton as well as in the billboard and print campaigns for these products.

The Cotton USA mark was developed as a sign of quality to promote raw cotton fiber as well as cotton yarn, fabric and finished products which contain a majority of US cotton.

Jeff Coey, Southeast Asia director for Cotton USA, says the Philippine campaign is part of the Asian thematic campaign called "Nothing Feels Like This" to be rolled out in six markets.

"The idea is to remind the consumer that only cotton can provide the comfort, durability and ease of care that they look for. It is easy to buy a polyester garment that may cost a bit less, but will ultimately not satisfy the user looking for cotton's unique touch," Coey explains.

Cotton USA chose Mansfield over other local companies that wanted to take part in Cotton USA's marketing campaign for the region because it has been a major buyer of cotton since 1996 and has demonstrated its ability to implement a co-branding campaign dubbed "Comfort, it's only natural" in tandem with Cotton USA.

Cotton USA finances one marketing and promotions campaign each year in each of its target markets. It chose to bankroll Mansfield's program because it has the manpower to implement its programs and is a recognized brand in the field.

"Mansfield has shown a quality consciousness in product development. Moreover, it is a strong, highly regarded name in the industry. We are happy to associate with the positive brand values that Hartmann has cultivated over the years in the Philippines," Coey says.

Cotton USA expects to generate a positive response to its campaign to generate sales in the Philippines because Filipinos have a higher brand awareness of Cotton USA compared to other countries.

A study commissioned by the council showed for instance that 72 percent of the respondents in the survey were familiar with the Cotton USA brand, with females having a higher awareness than males.

"There is a fiber awareness here that exceeds other Asian nations at similar stages of development. We see a marked preference for pure cotton apparel usually in the developed Asian markets of Japan and Hong Kong," he says.

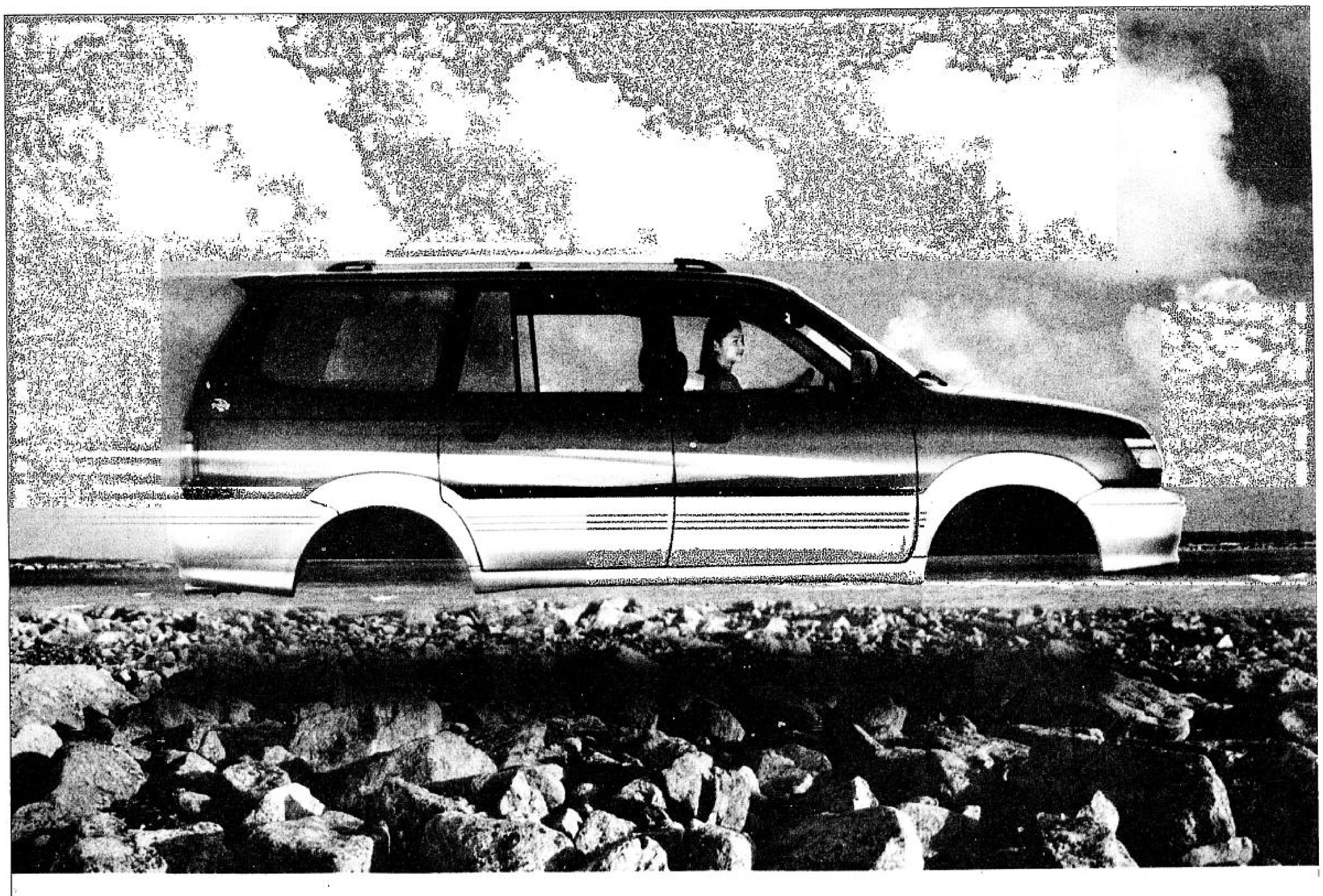
"In Thailand and Indonesia, we need to do a lot more foundation work to demonstrate the advantages of pure cotton to consumers," he adds.

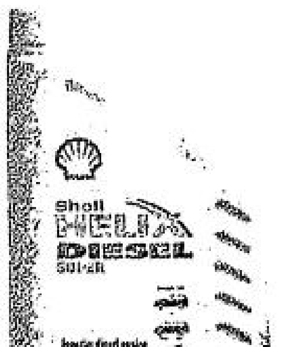
The younger Filipinos from 15-24 were also more aware of the brand at 80 percent, compared to 44 percent among the 45-54 group as it was only over the past few years that the American cotton industry decided to go all out to market US cotton outside the continent.

"Here, cotton is highly regarded as it is in the US and it is ubiquitous. Second, the Philippine market is more receptive to ingredient branding. I think consumers need a reason to spend a little extra for a superior product," Coey says.

"The perception of the US as a quality source of cotton reinforces an apparel brand's intrinsic value. Shoppers value the information contained in a Cotton USA endorsement," he adds.

The study showed that the level of awareness among Filipinos is rising and it could be attributed to the success of the advertising campaign through transit or bus ads and billboards, followed by magazines and newspapers.





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Editor Aries Espinosa

Imaging, printing experts set seminars at Graphic Expo '03

EXPERTS in graphic design, print and web publishing, multimedia, animation, and video editing will hold a 4-day seminar series at the Graphic Expo 2003 slated at the Philtrade from June 4 to 7.

Offering a rare opportunity to learn and interact personally with the experts, the seminar series is designed to harness and upgrade the creative skills of photographers, digital artists, graphic arts service providers, print and IT professionals, webmasters, and multimedia specialists/animators in a comprehensive lecture-workshop.

Updates on the new technologies and features of digital photography, imaging, large format printing, publishing / video editing software, color management, and design-oriented workshops will be the major focus of most presentations.

To be highlighted in the seminar series are topics relevant to industry workflow processes and software mastery such as Photoshop 7.0, Advanced Photoshop Techniques, PDF Workflow for Print Production, Designing a Dynamic Logo System, Editing Essentials in Final Cut Pro 3.0, Flash Cartooning.

Color Management & Scanning Techniques, Inside Freehand MX, What's New with Corel Draw 11, Design Essential for Desktop Publishing, Basics of Typography, Creating 3D Visualization with 3D Studio Max 5, Visual Effects with Combustion, Flash for Corporate Presentation, Audio-Visual Presentation from Script to Screen.

Integrating Illustrator and Photoshop, Designing Type with Illustrator, Professional Retouching Techniques, Creating Explosive Web Graphics with Fireworks, Energizing Flash MX Projects with Action Script, Web Animation Essentials, Tools, and Techniques, and The Making of Web Videos.

The seminar series will be conducted by mostly Adobe and Macromedia-certified and Apple Solutions experts and US-trained instructors who are industry practitioners themselves.

Comprising the panel of experts are Jun Miranda of the Philippine Center for Creative Imaging, Bob Serrano of The Arrangement Inc., Frankie Patriarca, Arthur Lucero of Blue Bar Animation, Jon Danao of Slingshot Interactive Inc., Marianne Young, Cherrie Pinpin, and Ronnie Millevo of DLSU College of St. Benilde.

During the exhibition, businessmen and industry professionals can visit, source, and upgrade printing and imaging equipment, hardware, tools, and latest state-of-the-art technologies of such key industry players as Epson, Hewlett-Packard, Fujifilm YKL, Senco Link Technologies, Sony, Canon, and Gakken Philippines Corp. Entrance to the exhibit is free of charge.

The seminar series is a joint cooperation of Graphic Expo organizer Fiera de Manila Inc. and the Philippine Center for Creative Imaging. For details, call 896-0639, 896-0637, 899-6893, e-mail fiera@info.com.ph, or log on to www.fmi.com.ph.

Hewitt
Management Association of the Philippines

PIZZA HUT ONE OF RP'S BEST EMPLOYERS
Pizza Hut ranked top 5 in the list of the 2003 Philippines Best Employers in an Asia-wide study covering 305 organizations conducted by Dow Jones, Hewitt Associates, Management Association of the Philippines, and BusinessWorld, together with Dow Jones publications The Asian Wall Street Journal and Far Eastern Economic Review (Feer). Pizza Hut's chief operating officer Lars Peterson (5th from left), is shown with the trophy during the awarding ceremonies held at the Intercontinental Manila. Also present during the event were (from left) Pizza Hut's VP for operations Edwin Nava and Rose Herrera, Hewitt Associates country manager Susan Rivera-Manalo, Hewitt Associates market leader for south Asia Ravi Virmani, guest of honor Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Management Association of the Philippines president Edward Fereira, Pizza Hut's VP for human resources Janet Soloysoy, and BusinessWorld board member Cesar Virata.

Global Business

DHL, TIME HOLD LUNCHEON
DHL, the world's leading air express company, and Time Magazine recently hosted a luncheon for DHL customers which provided attendees with valuable information on doing business in China. Time Magazine senior editor, business and technology Jim Ericsson discussed the business opportunities and benefits countries in Asia-Pacific, specifically the Philippines, can gain from China's booming economy. The luncheon is part of DHL's commitment of helping Philippine businesses grow and remain competitive. Shown is DHL country manager Charles Brewer presenting Ericsson with DHL's token of appreciation.

Globe's summer promo

NOTHING keeps you cool and refreshed during the sweltering heat of summer than an ice-cold can of your favorite soft drink. This summer, Globe is letting you enjoy the heat busting sensation of Vanilla Coke when you upgrade or buy a Globe hi-memory SIM pack in an ideal summer promo dubbed as Globe's Vanilla Summer.

From April 20 to May 31, purchase of any Globe Prepaid SIM pack entitles you to a free Vanilla Coke Globe edition pack. To claim this invigorating quencher, make an initial chargeable call on your newly-purchased Globe Prepaid SIM within the specified promo period. Upon doing so, you will receive a text message containing promo information from Globe 2977 the next day. Present the text message at any participating SM Supermarket, Caltex Star Mart or Julie's Bakeshop outlets nationwide to claim your Globe Edition Vanilla Coke. Redemption period is from April 28 to July 31.

Even more fun is that all new Globe Prepaid subscribers who made their first call within the promo period is entitled to win a free trip to Boracay. To join, text in REG <space> name <space> address and send to 2994 and you will be assigned one electronic entry number. Each Globe Prepaid SIM will receive only one raffle number. The electronic raffle will be held on June 6, 2003.

There will be five Grand Prize winners of an all expense paid trip for four to Boracay. The winner's package include, round trip tickets, 4 days and 3 nights hotel accommodation and P50,000 pocket money. Prize is transferable but not convertible to cash. Trip should be availed on or before Nov. 30.

Rush now to any Globe Business Center or authorized dealer and get any Globe Prepaid SIM pack for only P270. Globe Hi-Memory SIM's attractive features lets you enjoy 300 phone book entries and 65 stored text messages, meaning you now have more space to store all the numbers or text messages of new friends.

Make this summertime truly fun and memorable as only Globe gives you exciting summer promos and take you to the best summer getaway absolutely free. Make the most of your summer with Globe.

BÁBYFLO SPOTS CHARMER
A charming student of Manuel L. Quezon High School (Sta. Cruz, Manila) is spotted by Babyflo Cologne during the school's JS Prom. For three straight years now, Babyflo Cologne has been joining 50 public schools in Metro Manila in making their proms livelier and more memorable for the students. Highlights of the celebration are the awarding of the Babyflo Cologne 2003 Prom Prince and Princess, and product samplings. All students present during the events are given sample packs of Babyflo Cologne.

Bits Clips

Haribon lectures at Opta at the Podium

RICKY de Castro of Haribon Foundation will discuss the State of Biodiversity in the Philippines and what we can do about it on Saturday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m. at The Podium's Organic Lifestyle Weekend Market. This is part of the lecture series organized by Organic Lifestyle Market at The Podium organized by Opta, the Organic Producers Trade Association. Haribon and Opta at The Podium encourages everyone to assist in the preservation of our environment. The lecture on the State of Biodiversity in the Philippines will take place at the Organic Café Al Fresco beside The Podium in front of Banco de Oro, Julia Vargas Ave., Mandaluyong City.

Dyun Conanan's 'Earthian Spirit'

ART ENTHUSIASTS and followers of artist Dyun Conanan's artistic career - as an experimental abstractionist - will be satisfied to note that the artist will hold his third solo exhibit this may. Indeed, the acclaimed artist who has garnered numerous citations and accolades will present a collection of his new works in an exhibit entitled "Earthian Spirit" at the Ad Infinitum Galleries, 190 Bluementritt St., San Juan, Metro Manila. The exhibit which opened on May 2 will run until tomorrow. For inquiries, dial 726-9015 and 724-3032.

NCR finals of Ms Face and Body Beautiful

TWENTY beautiful damsels will compete to bag the much-coveted Ms Face and Body Beautiful Phil. 2003 slated tomorrow at Casino Filipino Hall in Tagaytay. Candidates ages 16 to 18 years old will show off their best qualities and exude their x-factor as they try to woo the judges and audience for this year's Ms Face and Body Beautiful grand finals. To prove that they do not only have beautiful faces and bodies, but also intelligence to boot, a question and answer portion is in store to add spice for this big night. Now on its second year, Ms Face and Body Beautiful Phil. 2003 is organized by MultiAd Image in cooperation with Casino Filipino Tagaytay. Other participating sponsors are Unilever, Nestle Philippines, Grand Boulevard Hotel, Kodak Professional, Sanly Corp., RRJ Blues Brothers Jeans, Dencio's, and Apsop.

Philippines celebrate World Fair Trade Day

THE PHILIPPINE Fair Trade Forum (PFTF), a coalition of Philippine producer groups, marketing organizations, support groups and individuals advocating and practicing the principles of fair trade is spearheading the Philippine celebration of the World Fair Trade Day - an event where members of the fair trade movement all over the world speak out in unison to promote and raise awareness about fair trade. As part of the celebration, a buyer's forum will be conducted at the Garcia Villa - Balagtas - Balmori function rooms of the Peninsula Hotel in Makati City. Along with the forum will be a two-day exhibit where the finest Philippine fair trade products will be displayed. Simultaneous celebrations around the world will also be held on May 17, official World Fair Trade Day. Meanwhile, satellite activities will also be conducted in other parts of the country such as Cagayan de Oro, Sorsogon, Iloilo, and Davao as part of the Philippine celebration. Call Ronald Lagazo at (02) 425-1230 and (0917) 452-9202 for inquiries.

ProductFILES

Chill out with Cornetto Mango Cheesecake Cup

HAVE fun with friends and stay cool all throughout the summer as Selecta introduces Cornetto Mango Cheesecake Cup. It's a burst of flavorful rich mango ice cream topped with cheesecake ice cream rosette, drizzled with mango sauce and sprinkled with crunchy graham bits. Isn't that just appetizing? Priced at only P18, the whole gang will forget about the heat and instead enjoy chilling out every minute of summer.

BPI OPENS IN DELA ROSA SQUARE
Bank of the Philippine Islands, one of the largest banks in the country, recently opened its newest branch in Dela Rosa Square. Present during the inauguration were (from left) Jen delos Santos, Colliers International retail leasing officer, Jesus Chuaunsu, Unsu Properties Inc., Fr. Bernardo Carpio, Cecilia Fajardo, BPI Dela Rosa Square assistant manager, BPI vice presidents Marilyn Mayoralgo and Carmelita del Rosario, BPI assistant vice presidents Gerry Kahayon and Genesis Aquino, and E. Evangelista, Unsu Properties Inc. national sales manager. Dela Rosa Square is a 2,500-sq.m. 4-level community shopping mall in Makati and is strategically located at the corner of Pasong Tamo Extension and Dela Rosa Street. It will house a varied selection of food concessionaires and specialty shops. International property services provider Colliers International is the exclusive marketing agent of Dela Rosa Square and was instrumental in bringing the two entities together.

Medimedia Asia provides healthy reads

LIVING in the city is tough on skin. How can urban dwellers save their skin? Running a household, raising kids and building a career - how can busy moms stay beautiful? Skin care isn't just for women. How can men care for their skin? Get all the answers in this month's issue of Health Today - plus get free pullout guides on caring for your newborn and developing creativity in your child. On the cover is international celebrity, host and model Vivien Tan who talks about her mission in life.

Meanwhile, motherhood becomes Nadya Hutagalung in the latest issue of Moms & babies, the authoritative guide to pregnancy and motherhood. Moms & babies is a quarterly magazine that provides everything parents need to know about conception, pregnancy, giving birth, childcare and - a very important but often overlooked aspect of motherhood - looking after the mother itself.

Also, the 2003 edition of Health Guide, your quick reference for everyday health decisions, is now available. Health Guide provides a comprehensive A to Z guide to medical conditions and treatments, practical tips for healthy living, up-to-date information on over a thousand health products and services, and well-researched data culled from healthcare experts. In easy-to-understand language aided by colorful illustrations, Health Guide explains what you can do and what your doctor can do for your common health problems, and includes a product-by-product guide to medicines.

These issues are available in all bookstores, newsstands and retail outlets nationwide. For subscription inquiries, call 886-0333 local 115, or email enquiry@medimedia .com.ph.

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People, Events & Products

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aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Imaging, printing experts set seminars at Graphic Expo '03

EXPERTS in graphic design, print and web publishing, multimedia, animation, and video editing will hold a 4-day seminar series at the Graphic Expo 2003 slated at the Philtrade from June 4 to 7.

Offering a rare opportunity to learn and interact personally with the experts, the seminar series is designed to harness and upgrade the creative skills of photographers, digital artists, graphic arts service providers, print and IT professionals, webmasters, and multimedia specialists/animators in a comprehensive lecture-workshop.

Updates on the new technologies and features of digital photography, imaging, large format printing, publishing / video editing software, color management, and design-oriented workshops will be the major focus of most presentations.

To be highlighted in the seminar series are topics relevant to industry workflow processes and software mastery such as Photoshop 7.0, Advanced Photoshop Techniques, PDF Workflow for Print Production, Designing a Dynamic Logo System, Editing Essentials in Final Cut Pro 3.0, Flash Cartooning.

Color Management & Scanning Techniques, Inside Freehand MX, What's New with Corel Draw 11, Design Essential for Desktop Publishing, Basics of Typography, Creating 3D Visualization with 3D Studio Max 5, Visual Effects with Combustion, Flash for Corporate Presentation, Audio-Visual Presentation from Script to Screen.

Integrating Illustrator and Photoshop, Designing Type with Illustrator, Professional Retouching Techniques, Creating Explosive Web Graphics with Fireworks, Energizing Flash MX Projects with Action Script, Web Animation Essentials, Tools, and Techniques, and The Making of Web Videos.

The seminar series will be conducted by mostly Adobe and Macromedia-certified and Apple Solutions experts and US-trained instructors who are industry practitioners themselves.

Comprising the panel of experts are Jun Miranda of the Philippine Center for Creative Imaging, Bob Serrano of The Arrangement Inc., Frankie Patriarca, Arthur Lucero of Blue Bar Animation, Jon Danao of Slingshot Interactive Inc., Marianne Young, Cherrie Pinpin, and Ronnie Millevo of DLSU College of St. Benilde.

During the exhibition, businessmen and industry professionals can visit, source, and upgrade printing and imaging equipment, hardware, tools, and latest state-of-the-art technologies of such key industry players as Epson, Hewlett-Packard, Fujifilm YKL, Senco Link Technologies, Sony, Canon, and Gakken Philippines Corp. Entrance to the exhibit is free of charge.

The seminar series is a joint cooperation of Graphic Expo organizer Fiera de Manila Inc. and the Philippine Center for Creative Imaging. For details, call 896-0639, 896-0637, 899-6893, e-mail fiera@info.com.ph, or log on to www.fmi.com.ph.

Hewitt
Management Association of the Philippines

PIZZA HUT ONE OF RP'S BEST EMPLOYERS
Pizza Hut ranked top 5 in the list of the 2003 Philippines Best Employers in an Asia-wide study covering 305 organizations conducted by Dow Jones, Hewitt Associates, Management Association of the Philippines, and BusinessWorld, together with Dow Jones publications The Asian Wall Street Journal and Far Eastern Economic Review (Feer). Pizza Hut's chief operating officer Lars Peterson (5th from left), is shown with the trophy during the awarding ceremonies held at the Intercontinental Manila. Also present during the event were (from left) Pizza Hut's VP for operations Edwin Nava and Rose Herrera, Hewitt Associates country manager Susan Rivera-Manalo, Hewitt Associates market leader for south Asia Ravi Virmani, guest of honor Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Management Association of the Philippines president Edward Fereira, Pizza Hut's VP for human resources Janet Soloysoy, and BusinessWorld board member Cesar Virata.

Global Business

DHL, TIME HOLD LUNCHEON
DHL, the world's leading air express company, and Time Magazine recently hosted a luncheon for DHL customers which provided attendees with valuable information on doing business in China. Time Magazine senior editor, business and technology Jim Ericsson discussed the business opportunities and benefits countries in Asia Pacific, specifically the Philippines, can gain from China's booming economy. The luncheon is part of DHL's commitment of helping Philippine businesses grow and remain competitive. Shown is DHL country manager Charles Brewer presenting Ericsson with DHL's token of appreciation.

BABYFLO SPOTS CHARMER
A charming student of Manuel L. Quezon High School (Sta. Cruz, Manila) is spotted by Babyflo Cologne during the school's JS Prom. For three straight years now, Babyflo Cologne has been joining 50 public schools in Metro Manila in making their proms livelier and more memorable for the students. Highlights of the celebration are the awarding of the Babyflo Cologne 2003 Prom Prince and Princess, and product samplings. All students present during the events are given sample packs of Babyflo Cologne.

ProductFILES

Chill out with Cornetto Mango Cheesecake Cup

HAVE fun with friends and stay cool all throughout the summer as Selecta introduces Cornetto Mango Cheesecake Cup. It's a burst of flavorful rich mango ice cream topped with cheesecake ice cream rosette, drizzled with mango sauce and sprinkled with crunchy graham bits. Isn't that just appetizing? Priced at only P18, the whole gang will forget about the heat and instead enjoy chilling out every minute of summer.

Globe's summer promo

NOTHING keeps you cool and refreshed during the sweltering heat of summer than an ice-cold can of your favorite soft drink. This summer, Globe is letting you enjoy the heat busting sensation of Vanilla Coke when you upgrade or buy a Globe hi-memory SIM pack in an ideal summer promo dubbed as Globe's Vanilla Summer.

From April 20 to May 31, purchase of any Globe Prepaid SIM pack entitles you to a free Vanilla Coke Globe edition pack. To claim this invigorating quencher, make an initial chargeable call on your newly-purchased Globe Prepaid SIM within the specified promo period. Upon doing so, you will receive a text message containing promo information from Globe 2977 the next day. Present the text message at any participating SM Supermarket, Caltex Star Mart or Julie's Bakeshop outlets nationwide to claim your Globe Edition Vanilla Coke. Redemption period is from April 28 to July 31.

Even more fun is that all new Globe Prepaid subscribers who made their first call within the promo period is entitled to win a free trip to Boracay. To join, text in REG <space> name <space> address and send to 2994 and you will be assigned one electronic entry number. Each Globe Prepaid SIM will receive only one raffle number. The electronic raffle will be held on June 6, 2003.

There will be five Grand Prize winners of an all expense paid trip for four to Boracay. The winner's package include, round trip tickets, 4 days and 3 nights hotel accommodation and P50,000 pocket money. Prize is transferable but not convertible to cash. Trip should be availed on or before Nov. 30.

Rush now to any Globe Business Center or authorized dealer and get any Globe Prepaid SIM pack for only P270. Globe Hi-Memory SIM's attractive features lets you enjoy 300 phone book entries and 65 stored text messages, meaning you now have more space to store all the numbers or text messages of new friends.

Make this summertime truly fun and memorable as only Globe gives you exciting summer promos and take you to the best summer getaway absolutely free. Make the most of your summer with Globe.

Bits Clips

Haribon lectures at Opta at the Podium

RICKY de Castro of Haribon Foundation will discuss the State of Biodiversity in the Philippines and what we can do about it on Saturday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m. at The Podium's Organic Lifestyle Weekend Market. This is part of the lecture series organized by Organic Lifestyle Market at The Podium organized by Opta, the Organic Producers Trade Association. Haribon and Opta at The Podium encourages everyone to assist in the preservation of our environment. The lecture on the State of Biodiversity in the Philippines will take place at the Organic Café Al Fresco beside The Podium in front of Banco de Oro, Julia Vargas Ave., Mandaluyong City.

Dyun Conanan's 'Earthian Spirit'

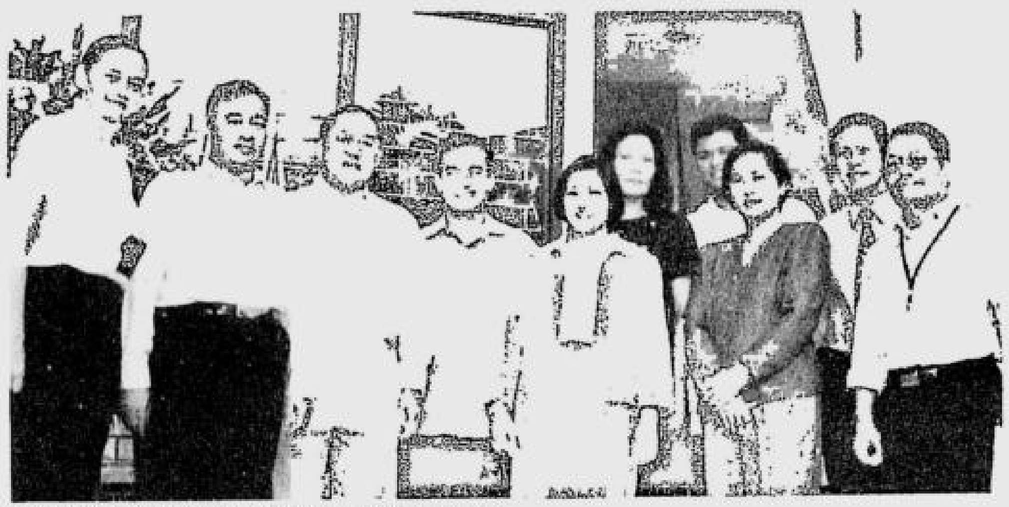
ART ENTHUSIASTS and followers of artist Dyun Conanan's artistic career - as an experimental abstractionist - will be satisfied to note that the artist will hold his third solo exhibit this may. Indeed, the acclaimed artist who has garnered numerous citations and accolades will present a collection of his new works in an exhibit entitled "Earthian Spirit" at the Ad Infinitum Galleries, 190 Bluementritt St., San Juan, Metro Manila. The exhibit which opened on May 2 will run until tomorrow. For inquiries, dial 726-9015 and 724-3032.

NCR finals of Ms Face and Body Beautiful

TWENTY beautiful damsels will compete to bag the much-coveted Ms Face and Body Beautiful Phil. 2003 slated tomorrow at Casino Filipino Hall in Tagaytay. Candidates ages 16 to 18 years old will show off their best qualities and exude their x-factor as they try to woo the judges and audience for this year's Ms Face and Body Beautiful grand finals. To prove that they do not only have beautiful faces and bodies, but also intelligence to boot, a question and answer portion is in store to add spice for this big night. Now on its second year, Ms Face and Body Beautiful Phil. 2003 is organized by MultiAd Image in cooperation with Casino Filipino Tagaytay. Other participating sponsors are Unilever, Nestle Philippines, Grand Boulevard Hotel, Kodak Professional, Sanly Corp., RRJ Blues Brothers Jeans, Dencio's, and Apsop.

Philippines celebrate World Fair Trade Day

THE PHILIPPINE Fair Trade Forum (PFTF), a coalition of Philippine producer groups, marketing organizations, support groups and individuals advocating and practicing the principles of fair trade is spearheading the Philippine celebration of the World Fair Trade Day - an event where members of the fair trade movement all over the world speak out in unison to promote and raise awareness about fair trade. As part of the celebration, a buyer's forum will be conducted at the Garcia Villa - Balagtas - Balmori function rooms of the Peninsula Hotel in Makati City. Along with the forum will be a two-day exhibit where the finest Philippine fair trade products will be displayed. Simultaneous celebrations around the world will also be held on May 17, official World Fair Trade Day. Meanwhile, satellite activities will also be conducted in other parts of the country such as Cagayan de Oro, Sorsogon, Iloilo, and Davao as part of the Philippine celebration. Call Ronald Lagazo at (02) 425-1230 and (0917) 452-9202 for inquiries.



BPI OPENS IN DELA ROSA SQUARE
Bank of the Philippine Islands, one of the largest banks in the country, recently opened its newest branch in Dela Rosa Square. Present during the inauguration were (from left) Jen delos Santos, Colliers International retail leasing officer, Jesus Chuaunsu, Unsu Properties Inc., Fr. Bernardo Carpio, Cecilia Fajardo, BPI Dela Rosa Square assistant manager, BPI vice presidents Marilyn Mayoralgo and Carmelita del Rosario, BPI assistant vice presidents Gerry Kahayon and Genesis Aquino, and E. Evangelista, Unsu Properties Inc. national sales manager. Dela Rosa Square is a 2,500-sq.m. 4-level community shopping mall in Makati and is strategically located at the corner of Pasong Tamo Extension and Dela Rosa Street. It will house a varied selection of food concessionaires and specialty shops. International property services provider Colliers International is the exclusive marketing agent of Dela Rosa Square and was instrumental in bringing the two entities together.

Medimedia Asia provides healthy reads

LIVING in the city is tough on skin. How can urban dwellers save their skin? Running a household, raising kids and building a career - how can busy moms stay beautiful? Skin care isn't just for women. How can men care for their skin? Get all the answers in this month's issue of Health Today - plus get free pullout guides on caring for your newborn and developing creativity in your child. On the cover is international celebrity, host and model Vivien Tan who talks about her mission in life.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Firm tells buyers get the right pen to complete your look of success

A CENTURY-old pen firm is launching a new campaign that taps into a person's aspirations to sell more.

Star Paper Corp., the exclusive distributor of Parker Pens in the country, set up an e "Aim High Campaign".

"Achievers, go-getters, individuals who want to make a mark in the world should have necessary tools in order to do what they need to do," Ben Tan, Senior Product Manager of the Fine Writing Department of Star, relates. "The heart of the Aim High Campaign is to zero in on the achiever aspect of any individual, the aspirational factor, the success that any individual wants to achieve ... We want to parallel the image of Parker being an accessory to meet that goal."

Tan further relates that the goal is to make a Parker Pen complete the picture of success.

The brand was recently elevated to the SuperBrand Hall of Fame for the Pen category in the Philippines and in the whole of Asia by the Reader's Digest superbrands awards.

Ronald Vizconde, Product Manager for Parken Pens, stresses that the pen is held more than any other item when it comes to communicating with people. The firm feels it is necessary to find the pen that suits one's taste, needs, aspiration, personality, position and the intensity of wanting to succeed.

"You make an effort to be who you are, you make an effort to present yourself in the most positive manner possible, why does this not extend to the pen you're using; when in fact, it is a tool of business, the tool of getting your message across in any field, in any profession, in any stage in life," Vizconde points out.

The decision-making process of a quality pen purchase has been relegated to the sidelights. The existing fever of technology gadgets makes quality pens a regular item. And under such a scenario, writing has become so mundane that people do not think of the impression that they send to people when they write.

The campaign's message is that the pen, just like any other apparel, contributes to the image one wishes to project. And the consideration of buying a quality pen should take the same precedent as when one purchases a gadget or a tool for trade.

When one is out to make a statement, it begins with creating a good impression. Ben Tan emphasizes that little things do matter at first glance. No matter how impeccably dressed a highly motivated individual is, even when he is sporting a dignified watch, a classy suit or the latest mobile phone model, the moment he pulls out a pen that is out of sync, say a disposable plastic pen, the tune of success misses a key.

Success entails a synergy of elements. Of course, skills and performance are a given. But to be noticed and to fully function, people who are success-driven must not take for granted the things that are necessary to project a good image.

Aim High Campaign inculcates in the consumers that choosing the suitable writing instrument is essential.

Parker Pen offers a wide range of writing instruments that appeal to a broad market. There's the Parker Jotter for the achiever in campus. The Parker Insignia matches the mid-executives. For those who seek beauty and elegance, the Parker Sonnet is a favored

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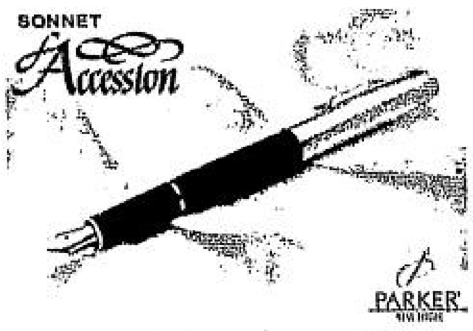

THE ACCESSION costs between P10,000 and P25,000 depending on the model.

Snail mail firm proves resilient in wired world

HOW a seemingly obsolete service retains its edge amid high tech. Instead of being threatened by the ever-growing dependence on IT, this company focuses on coming up with products and services that clients actually need.

Before developments in technology and IT enabled people to receive mail as soon as they were sent, people had to rely on the traditional postal system. Then came door-to-door delivery services, which are costlier and used mainly for priority mail and parcels. The fax machine did wonders for written correspondence. Sending and receiving messages were a mere phone call and fax tone away.

Today, with e-mail and all, the faces of correspondence and priority mail have changed forever. People at home, school and work exchange urgent messages through e-mail. Banks have set up on-line payment facilities. E-mail's push-button, real-time delivery system would have rendered manual mail delivery obsolete.

But it did not. Even in a world dominated by information technology, the so-called snail mail still has competitive edge because of two factors: People still communicate, conduct business and send billing statements through the post. And parcels cannot be delivered through computer.

According to Jan-Willem Adrian, regional marketing and product development manager of Spring Global Mail, the world's largest private cross-border business mail distribution company, keeping a competitive edge is only a matter of upgrading services and changing with the times.

Spring services companies in Europe, the Americas and Asia, including the Philippines, and Adrian is responsible for some of the company's strategies for staying in the game.

ADRIAN

Adrian will be sharing his expertise and strategies on promoting products and services at the upcoming "National Marketing Conference" in a lecture entitled Sizzling Marketing Promotions: Hot Button Strategies that Work.

The NMC is organized by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) and slated on May 28 and 29, at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Be realistic

Adrian realizes that, as a marketing expert for a snail mail distribution company, he must be realistic. "From experience, we know that our clients use a combination of various types of media to deliver their messages, and we encourage this. Depending solely on one medium does not work anymore," he explains.

Instead of being threatened by the ever-growing dependence on IT, Adrian focuses on coming up with products and services that his clients actually need.

In the Philippines, small companies may employ messengers for their correspondence, transactions and deliveries. But in large corporations with different departments that generate a lot of mail, sorting, delivering and tracing individual mail pieces may be next to impossible.

Instead of tasking its messengers with sorting mail in addition to delivering them - an exercise both time-consuming and cost-ineffective - such a company might utilize a professional mail distribution and delivery service.

"(We can) provide companies the choice to either partially or fully outsource their mailroom operations to us so that they can focus on their core business. The benefits are clear: Outsourcing offers expertise and experience, and the company enjoys efficiency and continuity," Adrian reveals.

This is one advantage snail mail has over electronic mail: Every employee may have a personal e-mail account but no time to sort messages, while one professional mail service would sort all of a company's mail quickly and efficiently.

Cost-cutting

Employing a mail distribution service is also cheaper than relying on messengers. This is good news especially in the Philippines, where companies are cost-cutting. "(There has emerged) a need to charge back the costs to departments who are responsible for these costs," says Adrian.

In order to trace these costs, he suggests that companies take advantage of mailroom solutions offered by mail distribution services that use the latest IT equipment and services. For example, his company provides its clients with a mailroom management software that "supports the mailroom manager in charging back expenses, such as postal costs. By making the cost visible, companies know exactly what they spend and can charge back the cost to various users within the company."

These kinds of software can also be used to trace letters and packages in case they are not delivered to the recipient, whereas before, if a letter or parcel got lost in transit, companies had no way of tracing it.

Promote, promote, promote

In order to stay in the game, Adrian says that a company, any company, should keep on promoting its services.

Promotion has a logical twofold

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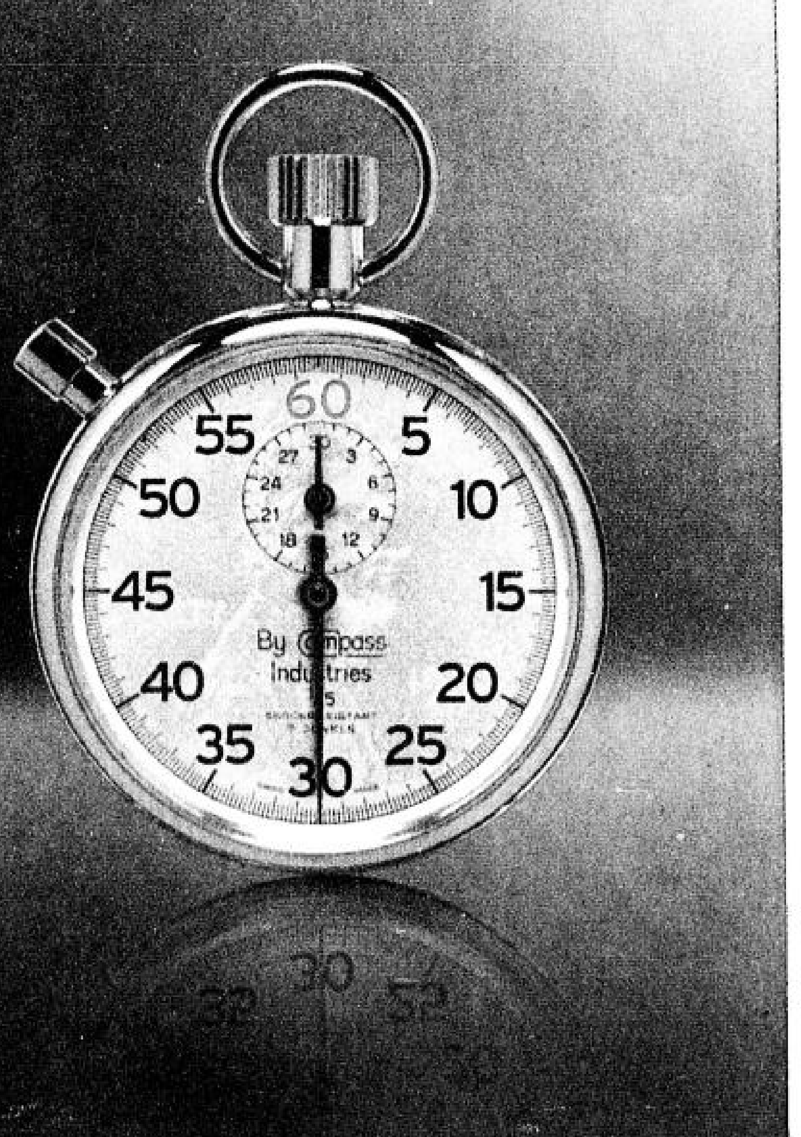
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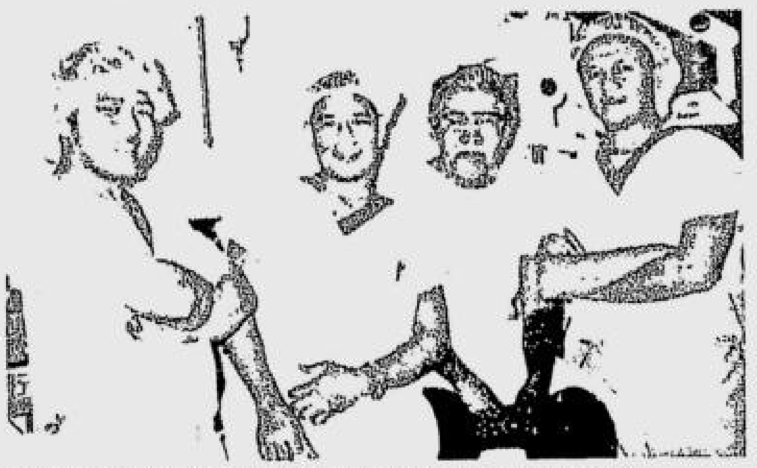
PNB launches Priority One Checking Account

PNB CHAIR of the board Francisco Dizon and retail banking sector head FSVP Mike Sandig hosted a dinner last April 25 in honor of their partners Philippine Airlines, Air Philippines, Century Park Sheraton Hotel and PNB General Insurers Co. Inc. in their newly launched product Priority One Checking Account. This Product is a special checking account that earns rewards points convertible to air mile credit for both international and domestic destinations, dinner gift certificates, personal accident insurance coverage and a lot more.

IN PHOTO are PNB Gen CEO Joey Zuniga, PNB Gen chair Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, PAL country manager Enrique Javier, PAL EVP Henry So Uy,PNB FSVP Mike Sandig, PNB chair Francisco Dizon, Air Philippines SVP Patria Chiong and Century Park Sheraton Hotel GM Paul Gill.

VALUED Priority One clients: Evelyn Franco - New Image International, Alexander Cruz, Consuelo Cortes - Mabicor Realty, Dr. Philip Tan, Cristina Zuno-Castillo - Golden Star Feedmills, Bonifacio Gomez - Philmare, Jesusito Legaspi - JD Construction, Dr. Alberto Romualdez - Friendly Care Foundation. At the back are their respective PNB retail branch managers.



1ST NO-STITCH GLAUCOMA SURGERY IN RP

A team of Harvard-trained eye specialists here have successfully performed the first no-stitch glaucoma surgery in the Philippines using electromagnetic energy. Glaucoma is one of the world's leading causes of permanent blindness. Glaucoma surgery is aimed at lowering elevated pressure within the eye caused by an obstruction at the eye's drainage-the trabecular meshwork. No-stitch glaucoma surgery is expected to revolutionize glaucoma surgery. The team members were composed of Drs. David Gosiengfiao, Ernesto Pangalangan Jr. and Joseph Anthony Tumbocon. For more information, the team can be reached at their clinic at the St. Luke's Medical Center.

SWEE AKES INNERS

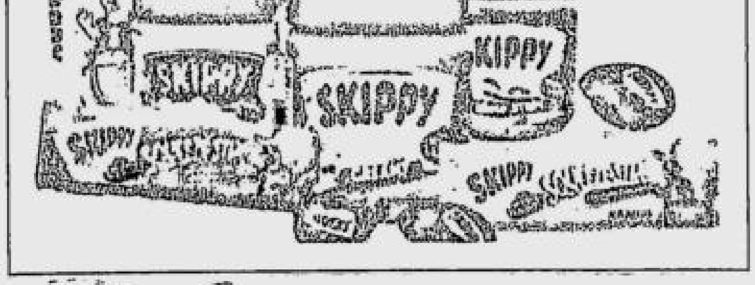
READER'S DIGEST SWEEPSTAKES MILLIONAIRE

An employee from Manila won the P2.3-million cash prize in the Roads to Riches Category of the 2002 Reader's Digest Sweepstakes draw. Judy Moises, 46, received the award from Lirio Sandoval, president of A-Z Direct marketing, exclusive distributor of Reader's Digest in the Philippines, in a special ceremony held recently at the Magellan Room of Discovery Suites in Ortigas. Moises has been a subscriber of Reader's Digest Magazine since 1994. She joined the contest last year and now wins the 2nd major prize in the Reader's Digest Asia regional draw. The grand prize was won by Ho Chui Hong from Singapore who received an amount equivalent to P6 million. The grand draw was held at the regional office of Reader's Digest in Hong Kong with representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry witnessing the draw. Also shown assisting Sandoval is Myla Gonzales (left), VP for marketing of AIG Philippines.

Product FILES

Skippy family of fun-filled products

THE SKIPPY brand was launched in the Philippines in October 2002, and since then has proven itself why it is one of America's favorite food brands. Skippy Peanut Butter is made from only the freshest peanuts and packed with Vitamins A, B1, D3 and E. In fact, almost 850 delicious peanuts are used to make every jar of Skippy. It comes with three different variants: Creamy, Super Chunky and Choco Stripes. Skippy Jelly Snacks are handheld ready to eat gulaman snacks in individual mini-plastic cups and comes in apple, orange and assorted flavors. The Skippy Squeeze Stix are handheld peanut butter snacks in 20-gram sachets and comes in Creamy and Super Chunky flavors where kids can enjoy their peanut butter even on the go. Skippy is a quality product of California Manufacturing Co. (CMC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Unilever.



A breakthrough for your child's IQ

A SURGE of mental activity marks the first years of your child's life as he learns about the world. His brain is relentless-it associates sounds, identifies objects, and makes connections. These influential years lay the groundwork for a vigorous intellect in the future.

DHA and ARA - two nutrients naturally found in breast milk-can improve both visual and brain development in infants. DHA (Docosahexaenoic Acid) is an Omega-3 long chain polyunsaturated fatty acid abundant in the brain. It is the primary building block of the brain and eye tissues, making up as much as 60-percent of the fatty acids in certain phospholipids of the outer segments of the rods in the retina. ARA or Arachidonic Acid is an Omega-6 fatty acid important for somatic growth.

Your child needs proper nutrition in the form of DHA and ARA, which play crucial roles in the healthy development of the brain, eyes, and central nervous system.

During pregnancy, a growing baby will receive DHA and ARA from the mother-especially important during the last trimester when there is significant brain growth. Since rapid infant brain development occurs in the early years of life, a number of researchers and clinical studies believe that a direct dietary source of DHA and ARA at that time can be beneficial for brain and retinal development.

Mead Johnson's A+ line of milk formula, formulated with DHA and ARA, is a complete and nutritionally balanced milk for toddlers and children. With Enfagrow A+ and Enfakid A+, your child is assured of a nutritional foundation to help achieve proper physical and mental development.

Bits Clips

Chocolate molding II

ATTENTION all hobbyists, students and entrepreneurs. Sweet Treats is happy to announce its new schedule of chocolate molding seminars after its successful debut April 26. Don't miss the opportunity to learn and earn this summer. The P1,000 fee includes training, complete starter kit for 100 pcs chocolates, snacks plus bonus no-bake rice crispies recipes, great for extra income. Play area for kids are available free of charge. The seminar will be held on May 17, Saturday, at Estrada Street near V. Cruz LRT/DLSU. Morning class starts at 8:30 a.m. and afternoon class starts at 1:30 p.m. For reservations and inquiries text or call Sweet Treats at 0916-8758704. The seminar is also made possible by Twin Oaks Food Corp. and Superlative Snacks.

Cool deals for summer

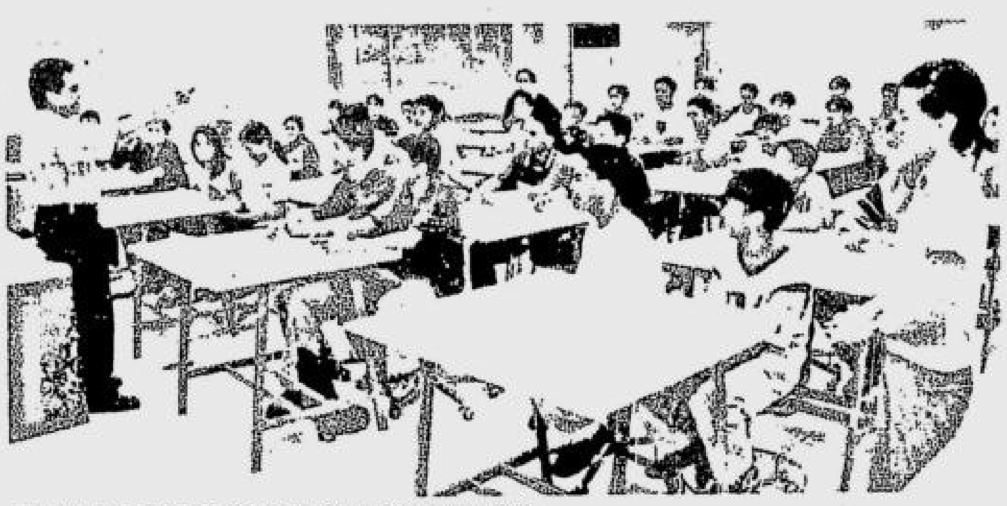
IT IS hot in the Philippines year-round but the months of April to May top the charts. So hot that we all hunt for the best deals in cooling appliances and will eventually end up at Abenson's, where you get a 0.50-hp room air conditioner at only P7,777. Ever wondered if you could buy an appliance with P8? You can with Abenson. A blender is priced at P8 for every purchase of selected refrigerator. How about a desk fan for only P88? That, too, is available for every purchase of selected air conditioners. These are both cool appliance duos for the summer that you can get hold of until May 30, only at Abenson.

Philets grand reunion

THE PHILETS Foundation Inc. will hold a grand reunion on June 14 at the Quezon City Sports Club. Class '53 will be this year's golden jubilarians while class '51 and below will be the platinum jubilarians. Each jubilarian will be given a gold bar with individual name engraved on it. Philets Foundation is composed of writers, journalists, public relations and advertising practitioners, public officials and educators who studied at the former Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Sto. Tomas. Philets are advised to call the Philets Secretariat at 928-5117, Roger and Letty Buhay at 647-1076, and Lalle Dua-Garcia, Philets Foundation secretary at 725-2973.

BORACAY BODIES WINNERS

The Boracay Bodies Model Search 2003 recently held its finals at The Sun Village Beachfront Resort in Boracay where 27 male and female candidates from Metro Manila and the Visayas region vied for the titles. Rep. Gabrielle Calizo of Aklan (3rd from right) was among the distinguished panel of judges. Noted fashion designer Frederick Peralta showcased his exclusive resort collection during the event. Shown is Calizo with the winners (from left) Rico Barrera, 2nd runner-up male division, Deana Valero, 2nd runner-up female division, Elaine Matawaran, Miss Boracay Bodies 2003, Alexander Cenzon, Mr Boracay Bodies 2003, Tiffany Gonzales, 1st runner-up female division, and G-Ford Lara, 1st runner-up male division. Boracay Bodies Model Search 2003 was presented by Longines, Philips and The Sun Village Resort and sponsored by Southeast Asian Airlines, The B Salon, The Orchids Resort, Club Bazzura, Dish and Barcelo Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center.



ORIENTATION CLASS FOR SCHOLARS

Some 300 high school graduates who passed the entrance exams for scholarship to the 3-year Industrial Technician Program (ITP) of Meralco Foundation Inc. (MFI) are attending the Summer Training and Orientation Program (STOP). Those who will pass this final screening process will be admitted as the 150 new scholars for 1st year. Shown are part of the STOP participants attending class under Marciano Quitives assisted by Lani Ativo and Judy Oliveros.

SUPERVISING THE TINY KITCHEN

Vicky Veloso-Barrera shows kids how to make Piglet Salad at the Tiny Kitchen cooking demo held at Rustan's Makati play area, children's section. Barrera supervises the Tiny Kitchen class for ages 3 to 7 years old at Sacred Heart School this summer. Interested parties may inquire from any of the 9 Sacred Heart branches: Malabon (447-3371), Goodwill Bookstore (867-1125), Dela Rosa, Makati (810-8997), Caloocan (334-1721), San Lorenzo, Makati (815-3058), Shangri-La Plaza (636-1227), Forbes Park (840-2632), Ortigas (705-1630) and Paranaque (823-1348).

MAKATI, MANILA BARS VISITED

Mild Seven intensified partying at several top Metro Manila bars last weekend with another run of its immensely successful weekly sampling tour. Bar habitués in Makati and Manila got a kick when they tasted the smooth satisfaction of Mild Seven Full Flavor and Mild Seven Lights brought to them by the tallest, most gorgeous promo models in town. Included in Mild Seven's bar hopping recently at the Rockwell and Jupiter areas were Gerry's Grill-Jupiter, Forest Grill, Grilla-Kalayaan, Dencio's Powerplant, Monk's Dream, Mati, My Bro's Mustache-Jupiter, Ebisu Grill, and Pravda. Afterwards at Malate, the Mild Seven team introduced Mild Seven's dual filter technology to the patrons of Bargo-Nakpil, Wave, Episode, Verve Room, Gypsy, My Bro's Mustache-Nakpil, Jazz Rhythms, New York Café, Bar 8-0, and Taza.

Firm tells buyers . . .

From page B5

choice to chronicle intimate thoughts. The Parker Vector comes in handy for corporate promotion and the Parker Rialto for the sophisticated professional. The Parker Duofold fits the retiring CEO.

"Achieving is inherent in every individual" Vizconde stresses. With that, the Aim High Campaign seems to hold so much promise in striking an affinity with new users, motivating each and everyone to succeed as Parker Pen, positions itself as an essential tool for one to truly achieve in life. *By Carrie Jauregui*

Snail mail firm . . .

From page B5

purpose.

First, it shows people - both potential clients and the general public - that the company provides much-needed services that give it a competitive advantage over technological advances that nonetheless cannot cater to all of people's needs.

Second, it lets people know the company's services are available in their region.

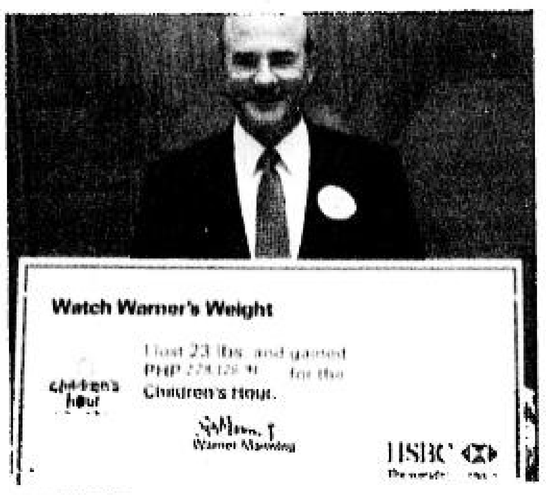
Says Adrian, "Spring uses mainly trade shows, sales visits, advertisements in selected trade and business magazines, direct mail campaigns, a quarterly newsletter, and the recommendations of its clients." *For inquiries, call 813-0466)*

CEO tips scale for the Children's Hour

LAST January , new HSBC CEO Warner Manning embarked on a personal mission—to lose 20 pounds in two months.

With a little creativity and a desire to lead by example, Warner saw an opportunity to translate personal goals into a winning situation for a chosen charity—the Children's Hour and enjoin staff and business colleagues in a worthwhile cause.

Dubbed as Watch Warner's Weight, Warner challenged himself to lose at least 20 pounds in two months in exchange for pledges from staff, friends and new acquaintances in the business community for the benefit of the Children's Hour. He personally committed an additional 10 percent of total pledges in the event he makes his goal. And should he lose out on the challenge, he was willing to pay the entire pledge amount from his own pocket.


Watch Warner's Weight
I lost 23 lbs. and gained PHP 228,128.91 for the Children's Hour.
Children's Hour
Warner Manning
HSBC

MANNING

For two months, Warner followed a strict diet and exercise regimen, assisted by trainers at the Tower Club gym.

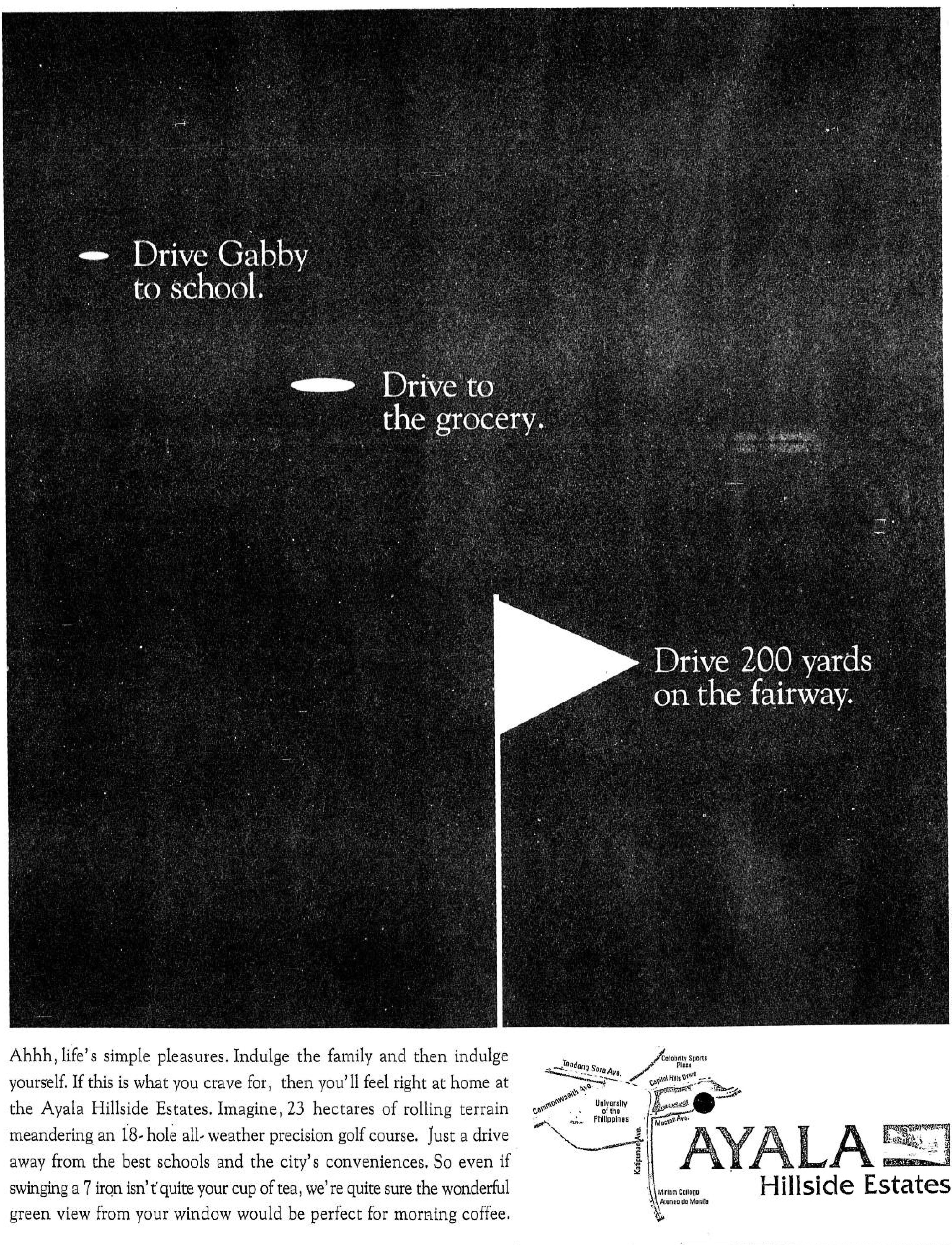
Today, Warner is 23 pounds lighter and the Children's Hour coffers heavier by P228,128.91.

"HSBC encourages 'staff volunteerism at every level and through my campaign, I hope to have led by example and demonstrated how a little imagination can generate more interest and participation," said Warner who believes in "walking the talk" when it comes to corporate social responsibility.

The unique example from the top man at HSBC should further encourage employee engagement among HSBC staff, who over the past years, have shared time, talent and resources for the Bank's education and environmental programs, as well as a number of chosen charities during Christmas.

They have painted, set-up and arranged a library, computer room and pre-school center at an adopted public elementary school.

Almost 100 staff have visited the Bank's adopted coastal communities in Samal Island, planting mangrove seedlings and marking marine sanctuaries. Over 30 staff recently visited Palawan to experience first hand, the work of partner WWF-Philippines in this ecological haven, where endangered dugongs continue to thrive.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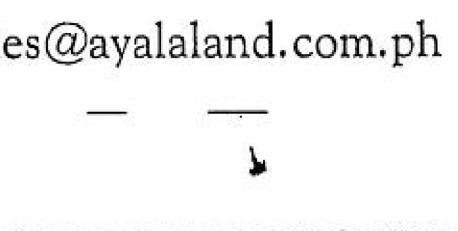

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BUSINESS *Friday*

Lonely Planet weathers turmoil

MELBOURNE—Toothbrush, passport, sunblock, Lonely Planet...

Whether jungle trekking in the wilds of Borneo or jetting off to Paris for a romantic weekend, millions of people packing their bags would not leave home without a Lonely Planet travel guide.

Started by a husband and wife team at their kitchen table, Melbourne-based publisher Lonely Planet now claims to be the world's biggest travel guide group and hopes to sell around six million books this year.

Invaluable travel tips—such as stick to official campsites when on an African safari to avoid being eaten by wild animals—have made the compact guides vital accessories.

But like virtually every sector of the world's travel industry, the publisher is feeling the pressure as the SARS virus sweeps through Asia on the heels of war in Iraq, exacerbating the prolonged international tourism slump.

"You get places that are opening and closing, going up and down in popularity, and we can certainly see that with our guidebooks when a place becomes a trouble zone," Tony Wheeler, who co-founded Lonely Planet with his wife, Maureen, told Reuters in a recent interview.

But Lonely Planet's primary independent traveller market is one of the industry's most resilient, with many scouring for new destinations in troubled times rather than just staying at home.

In the meantime, Lonely Planet is betting destinations in Africa, South America and Eastern Europe will replace parts of the Middle East and Southeast Asia as hotspots for travellers scared off by SARS and geopolitical instability.

Penned by around 200 writers with an in-depth knowledge on where to go, what to see and how to avoid getting ripped off from Alaska to Zimbabwe, around 800 Lonely Planet titles in 16 languages cram the shelves of bookstores around the world.

World food, city and scuba diving guides, travel literature, atlases, phrase books, and a television series are part of the expanding product stable for the group, which targets upscale holidaymakers as well as backpackers scraping by on $10 a day.

Rivals such as Rough Guide, Let's Go, Fodor's, Frommer's or the Footprint travel series all battle Lonely Planet fiercely for travellers' dollars.

But now a plethora of free online information and demand for delivery via new technology is proving a major challenge for Lonely Planet, whose website gets 3 million hits a day.

"We keep a constant watch on our rivals. But very often these days you have to look at different people for different things," said British-born Tony.

Reuters

Vigan taps abel trade to push revival of RP cotton industry

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—Last week, television host Angel Aquino led sagalas in this city's Santacruzan wearing a terno made of Ilocano abel (cotton weave).

The day before, hundreds of schoolchildren danced on Crisologo Street, wearing different colors and costumes also made of Ilocano abel.

Even horses wore pants made of abel during the calesa parade.

These were just some of the scenes from Vigan's Binatbatan Festival, borrowed from the Ilocano word *binatbatan*, which is the traditional way of cotton ginning or beating cotton to remove its seeds.

Mayor Eva Marie Singson Medina said sales of abel have grown 10 times since Vigan began showcasing the abel in the late 1990s.

"At first, the weavers here sell their wares in Baguio. But now, wholesale buyers from Baguio have to wait in line," Medina said.

The Ilocos is reviving the traditional abel not only to spotlight its cultural treasure but also to revive its traditional loom industry.

The abel, created mostly by Ilocos women, is sought after for its conservative aesthetic appeal as well as its durability.

But Medina said abel weavers get their cotton elsewhere.

"Ilocos Sur used to be the main source of cotton but that has not been the priority," she said.

But cotton growing is slowly making its way back to Ilocos Sur.

The Ilocos Sur government, together with the Cotton Development Authority (Coda) and the Cuancabal Multipurpose Cooperative Inc. (CMCI), agreed earlier this year to revive cotton growing in Cabugao town.

LEONCIO G. BALBIN JR., PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

The participants of the 2nd Binatbatan Street dancing contest show their talents at the world famous Heritage Village.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano released a production loan worth P350,000 to the CMCI in Cabugao. Under the project, the cooperative started planting the UPL-C2 variety and the hybrid cotton Bioseed 6527 in 15 hectares in Barangay Cuancabal.

Cotton is especially suited for the Ilocos climate because it thrives on long exposure to sunlight and is grown as a dry crop. It also grows in semi-upland areas.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson said cotton is considered the main alternative crop once tobacco, the premier cash crop here, is phased out.

He, however, said the province must invest in irrigation facilities because cotton and other cash crops need a steady supply of water, unlike tobacco.

A report from the Textile Mills Association of the Philippines (TMAP) said that although cotton is grown in at least 13 provinces in the country, production is not enough to meet the demand.

Cotton is grown in the Ilocos provinces, La Union, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Iloilo, Negros Oriental, Sarangani, Davao del Sur, South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Zamboanga del Sur and Sultan Kudarat.

The TMAP said that there are only 30 cotton mills operating in the country compared to more than 50 in 1997.

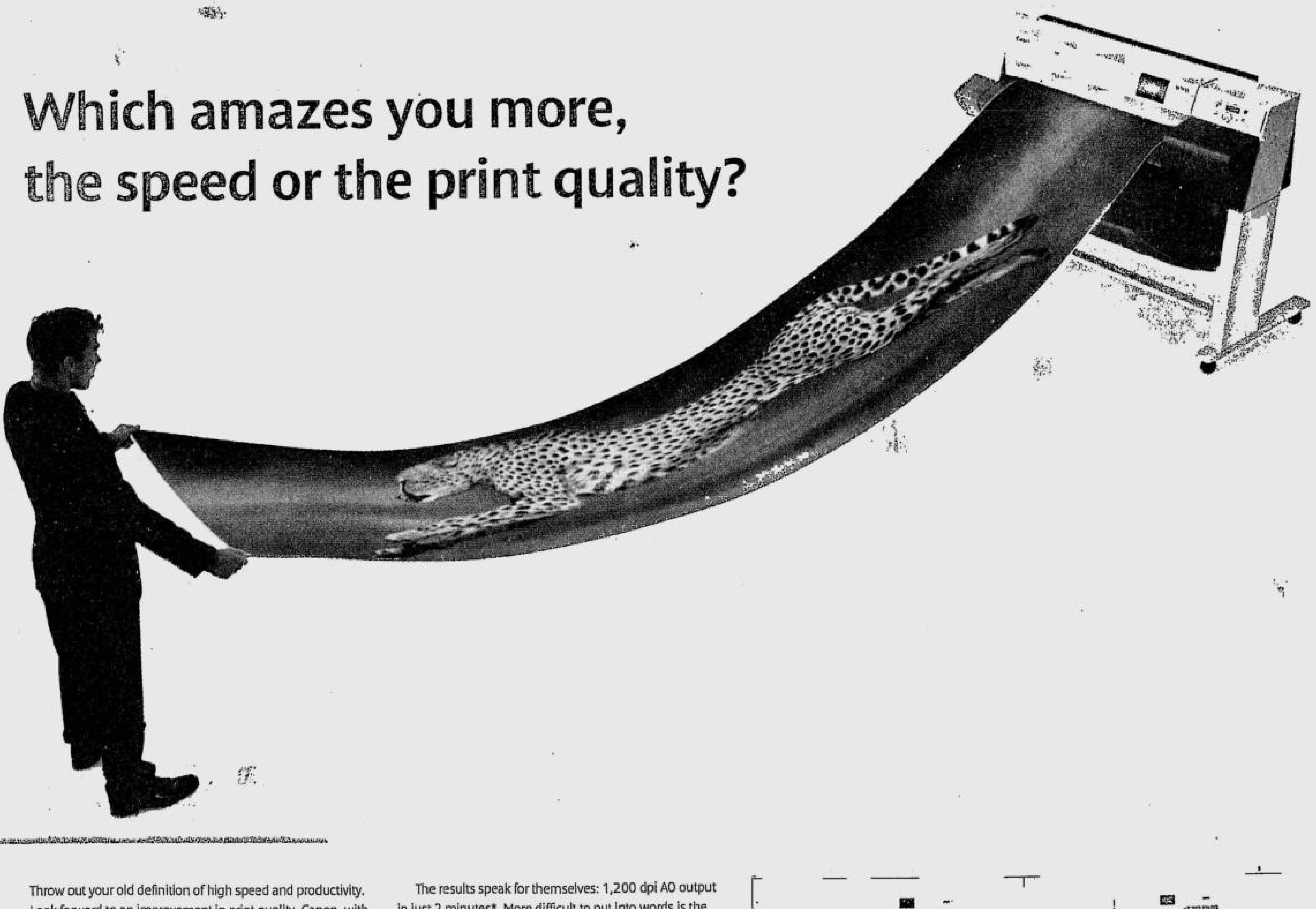
The cotton shortage has increased the production expenses of the export garment industry. But despite this, the industry earned $2.7 billion last year.

The TMAP said indigenous and earth-friendly fibers like natural cotton, abaca, pina, silk and ramie are in demand not only in the country, but also in the international market.

A Coda study said a farmer can earn a gross income of P57,950 from cultivating cotton in one hectare of land. After deducting production costs like inputs and labor, a farmer can still get a little more than P30,000.

Coda said cross-planting cotton with peanut, cowpea or soybean would increase income. The Coda study showed that for a hectare, a farmer can get a gross income of P66,254 from cotton and peanut; P63,727 from cotton and cowpea; and P66,653 from cotton and soybean.

In monoculture, a farmer can only get about P13,207 from cowpea; P25,135 from soybean; and P40,426 from peanut.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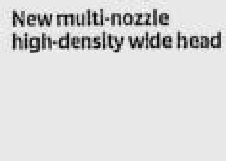
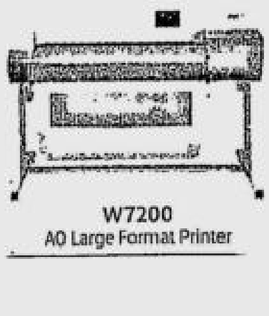


New multi-nozzle high-density wide head



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E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

NEW SHOW dawns for Dawn Zulueta.

Dawn taking over Lucy's GMA show

By Margaux Ortiz

DAWN Zulueta-Lagdameo is looking forward to basking in the limelight again after a five-year time-out from show biz following her marriage to business tycoon Anton Lagdameo.

No, she's not planning to resume making movies or appear in public as a much talked-about celebrity like she used to back when she was *the* Dawn Zulueta, one of the country's most popular, most promising actresses.

Dawn is the new host of "All About You," GMA 7's Sunday morning lifestyle show. She takes over from Lucy Torres-Gomez starting May 18 at 11:30 a.m.

Dawn will be in Manila twice a month, taping two episodes of "All About You" during each visit. Some episodes of the 30-minute show will be shot in Davao, which has become Dawn's home in the last five years.

DAWN/ C3

ARIEL RIVERA

Ariel is latest to move to GMA7

/C3

KUH LEDESMA

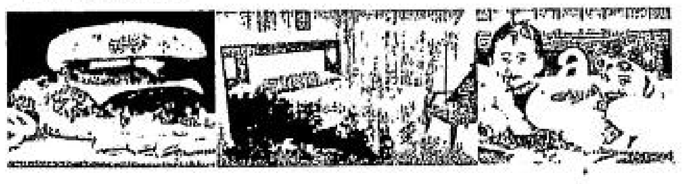
Republic of Kuh to rise from the ashes

/C2

DID YOU KNOW...

Are former love-team partners **Jolina Magdangal** and **Marvin Agustin** dating again? Although they now belong to rival networks, the two stars were recently spotted having late-night coffee at Figaro near the ABS-CBN complex in Quezon City. Jolina moved to GMA 7 last year, while Marvin is still with ABS-CBN, where he is seen on the new soap, "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas" with **Jericho Rosales** and **Kristine Hermosa.** He's also on the sitcom, "Whattamen." But Jolina is also being romantically linked to her "Kahit Kailan" costar, **James Blanco.**

ASTORIA PLAZA



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Just got back from the States from an awesome tour with Regine. Wow, what a talent! Got 2 more this May 9th & 10th at the Araneta with her. Yikes! Come watch me sweat!
monday
Watched my eldest son sing & play in a church convention the other day and all I can say is, "watch out John Mayer!" Stage father ba?
wednesday
Martin ...from morning 'til late at night
I'm now on my way to a major step in my career. I'll be at the Golden Nugget Hotel in Las Vegas on May 15th until June 8th! I have a billboard on the strip & everything!
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Kuh's Republic to rise from the ashes

Pop diva to start managing singing talents

By Leah Salterio

NEARLY two years after fire gutted the Republic of Malate in November 2001, the restaurant-bar-theater owned by Kuh Ledesma will rise again on the same spot along M.H. del Pilar in Malate, Manila, only bigger and better.

Kuh, Inquirer Entertainment learned, has also started to groom new singing talents as the pop diva prepares to assume a new role and reinvents herself into a talent manager.

"It will have three floors, including a mezzanine," says Kuh of the entertainment complex that will be rebuilt. "There will be three performance venues, including a comedy place. There will be shops that sell clothes, lifestyle and home items. Our target opening date is September."

Kuh has continued to be in the restaurant business even after the Republic of Malate burned down. She converted her vacation house in Tagaytay City into an al fresco dining place.

"No one had been using the house for six years," Kuh says. "I had planned to sell it and one family was interested, but the deal did not materialize. So I fixed it and turned it into a restaurant. I decorated it myself and we added two structures. It is now open for special functions, like weddings.

"But what's more important is that it gave jobs to about 40 people and gave me a chance to share God's word."

The Tagaytay restaurant called Kuh's Place can accommodate up to 500 people. Aside from the al fresco area, there is also an air-conditioned dining place. The chef was from the old Republic of Malate.

Back to acting

While getting ready to rebuild the Republic, Kuh is also planning to turn herself into a talent manager. She has already started auditioning and discovering new singing talents, according to her publicists, Cast & Crew.

Kuh's newest career plan mirrors her recent return to acting. She has taken over Jessa Zaragoza, who is now eight months pregnant, in the GMA 7 telenovela "Bituin" where she now plays Lyrica Luna, the new talent manager of Carol Banawa.

"I turned it down," Kuh says of the "Bituin" role. "It's not my ambition to become an actress. Staying up late for tapings is not my thing. Besides, the role is that of a *contravida*. But my staff convinced me to accept it."

Early on in her career, Kuh had acted in three movies: Peque Gallaga's "Oro, Plata, Mata," Danny Zialcita's "Tinimbang ang Langit" (with Christopher de Leon) and Peter Weir's "The Year of Living Dangerously," which starred Mel Gibson and was filmed in Subic.

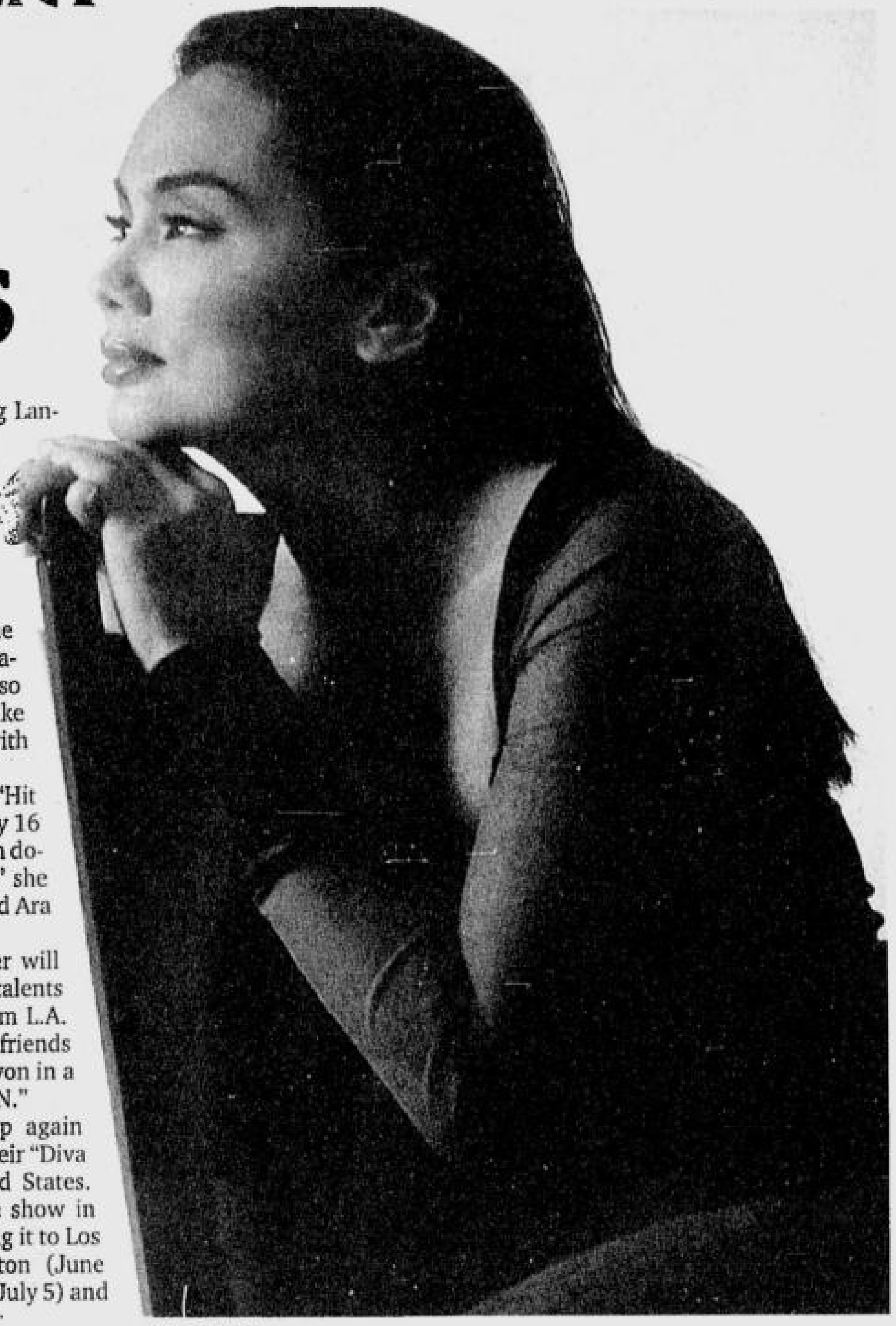
Introducing new talents

"I believe I have an easier time acting now because I've matured," Kuh allows. "I'm not so self-conscious anymore unlike when I did 'Tinimbang' with Boyet" (in the early '80s).

Kuh will have a show called "Hit Back" at Music Museum on May 16 and 17. "This is the first time I'm doing a show with only my hits," she says. Her guests will be Kyla and Ara Mina.

The budding talent manager will also introduce new singing talents Toni and Rebecca. "Toni is from L.A. and her parents are very good friends of mine," Kuh says. "Rebecca won in a singing competition at ABS-CBN."

Next month, Kuh teams up again with Zsa Zsa Padilla to bring their "Diva to Diva" concert to the United States. The two singers, who did the show in Manila last December, will bring it to Los Angeles (June 14), Washington (June 22), Chicago (June 28), Reno (July 5) and San Diego (July 11).


LEDESMA

Will show biz stars Toni, Geff, Aliya or Greg be MTV VJs?

RODRIGUEZ

TAUS

PARCS

MARTIN

WHO WILL be the newest MTV VJ?

The answer will be known tonight in MTV VJ Hunt 2003 finals night at the Rockwell Outdoor Plaza at the Rockwell Center in Makati City.

Fourteen lucky finalists have been plucked not necessarily from absolute anonymity; most are fairly known names.

Let's refresh our memories about the previous winners. Gorgeous Derek Ramsay is enjoying success as a commercial model. His brooding mien and not-too-spontaneous personality, however, have not really fired up MTV viewers.

Anna Shier is a better host, but she's still too *mahinhin* for MTV watchers. She's great doing commercials and modeling.

Movie star Donita Rose remains an irreplaceable MTV star. Although she's no great shakes in the acting department, she has managed to become the undisputed queen of MTV Philippines.

Belinda Panelo is fun, sexy and sassy, though she sounds unintelligible in a few live performances. Then there's Sarah Meier, stunning and statuesque on and off the screen, and one of the most-sought-after product endorsers, too. She's known for her "big heart" among her friends and colleagues. While doing live shows, however, she tends to stammer.

For a year, an MTV billboard of Donita, Sarah, Belinda and KC Montero stood proudly in Guadalupe along Edsa.

"That's the main thrust of MTV Philippines," says MTV communications and marketing director Rod Nepomuceno, "to pave the way for them to succeed in show business, or whatever fields they choose later on."

During the MTV VJ Hunt 2003 presentation at the Streetlife in Makati City, several finalists immediately shone and impressed the audience with their presence, appearance and wit.

Johan Ekedum, 22, is a UP Industrial Design student with an Afro 'do and a twang. "Say Yohan," he said, correcting our pronunciation of his name.

Two tall guys, Eddie Mendez and Chase Tinio, were crowd-pleasers who should also do well as movie stars and models. They reportedly had competed in bikini competitions.

Greg Martin, Geff Rodriguez are familiar faces, from the popular deodorant ad ("*Wala ba kayong mga kamay?*)" and the Rexona Boys which later became known as the Powerboys.

To cajole people to vote for him, Greg did a daring backflip from the small stage and landed on his feet on the floor. The audience was ecstatic. "Try landing on your head, "KC teased him.

SHOW TIME

Instead of taking KC's advice, Greg did an acrobatic split on stage. "Man, I'm worried about your *cojones*," KC barked.

Inviting everyone to select him, Geff made a deal with the audience. "You choose me," he said and pointed at his half-unzipped pants, "then I'll show you what's inside."

One media woman asked Geff, "Who among the girls deserves to win?" He replied, "Everybody deserves to win."

Four female finalists showed promise. Witty Patricia Benedicto, a 22-year-old management graduate of UP Visayas, declared, "It's always been my dream to become an MTV VJ ever since I was a child."

Reema Chanco is cool, articulate and an experienced TV host. At 26, she's the eldest among the finalists.

Aliya Parcs, a band singer and a disc jockey, is hip. "That's Aliya with a Y," she cooed.

Antoinette Taus is already recognized as a movie star and recording artist. So why join this search? Toni replied, "Watching the MTV VJs, I realized I could do it, toot. I love music. I sing, can act and dance.

"I'm unstoppable, funny and *madaldal*," she added. "*Makapal ang mukha ko.*"

If the reactions of the people in the audience were a good basis, two guys would fight it out for the chance to use the MTV VJ's headset and mike—Johan and Geff.

What does Aliya think of a tie between her and Toni? "Great," replied Aliya."

What about the green-eyed monster? "No, Toni is a friend," she said. "*Barkada kami.* She's my condo-mate. When I learned that she enlisted (for the VJ hunt), I did, too." *Ymmanwel Rico Provinio*

Dionne Warwick to perform timeless Bacharach hits

INTERNATIONAL hit-maker Dionne Warwick will hold a two-night concert in Manila on May 30 and 31, at the 3,000-seat Aliw Theater of Star City, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

Dionne will once again enthrall local audience with her signature interpretations mostly of Burt Bacharach-Hal David classics. These selections have earned for her five Grammy awards after over 30 records in an illustrious career that has spanned over four decades.

Born in East Orange, New Jersey, Dionne first broke into the music scene in 1962 with "Don't Make Me Over," a collaboration between songwriter Bacharach and lyricist David.

Eventually, Bacharach and David would not only write her songs but produce her records as well.

Throughout the '60s, Dionne hit the R&B charts with songs that became timeless hits like "Do You Know the Way to San Jose?," "Walk On By," "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," "I Say a Little Prayer" and "Alfie."

Throughout the decade, Dionne, in collaboration with Bacharach and David, produced 19 Top 40 hits and sold 12 million records.

Dionne is regarded as the best-ever interpreter of Bacharach-David originals. Although artists such as Petula Clark, Nancy Sinatra, Aretha Franklin and Bobbie Gentry would also record versions of the duo's songs, Dionne's versions were the ones that became hits. "Alfie," for instance, was recorded by 42 artists before Dionne, but her version outsold all the others.

During the '70s, Dionne once again struck a successful partnership, this time with Barry Manilow, who produced her first hit for the said decade, "I'll Never Love This Way Again," followed by "Deja Vu."

In the '80s, Dionne is best remembered for being the host of "Solid Gold."

A much celebrated re-team-up with Bacharach came in the mid-'80s for yet another hit, "That's What Friends Are For." Proceeds from record sales of this song that bagged her fifth Grammy were donated to AIDS research.

Through the decades, Dionne has maintained her elegant, classy look and her signature glamorous gowns although she has altered her hair styles experimenting with short cuts to shoulder-length flips to extensive curls.

Dionne Warwick at Aliw Theater is sponsored by Beam, Dequadin, Decolgen, Sun Cellular, Speed Detergent Bar, Western Union, and Ceelin. For tickets, contact Star City at 832-6121 and 22, TicketWorld at 891-5610, and TicketNet at 911-5555.

WARWICK

Ayen goes solo at Captain's Bar

CATCH Ayen Munji Laurel when she goes on stage tomorrow night, May 17, in a special show, "Ayen at the Captain's Bar" at Mandarin Oriental. Show time is 9 p.m. Cocktails will be served at 7 p.m.

Ayen will do her own rendition of standards and pop ballads like "Am I the Same Girl," "This Is My Life," "Game of Love," "Come Together," "Meadowlark," "Here Comes the Sun," "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life," among others.

Ayen will be joined onstage by her special guests, Janno Gibbs, Agot Isidro, Danny Marshall of Powerdance and Cecil Martinez and Ayi of Whiplash.

Musical direction is by Marc Lopez, while stage direction is by Marlon Rivera. Sound designer is Willy Munji and lights designer is Gerry Fernandez.

Choreography is by Andy Alviz. Costumes are provided by Joji Loren for Ayen and Maxi Cinco for her back-up.

"Ayen at the Captain's Bar" is a benefit for Victory Leadership Institute. Tickets at P1,000 (inclusive of cocktails and two rounds of standard drinks) are available at ML Entertainment office.

For inquiries and reservations, call 638-7776 or 638-7778.

The concert is sponsored by Uva restaurant, Magic 89.9 dwTM, Shiseido, Ysa Skin Care Center and Joey@92.3 Rhythms.

'MTV Movie Madness' screens 'Triple XXX'

GLOBE Gentxt's "2003 MTV Movie Awards Movie Madness" continues to draw movie buffs at The Fort's open field.

To be screened this weekend is "Triple XXX" with Vin Diesel on May 16 (Friday) and "8 Mile" starring Eminem (a.k.a. Marshall Mathers) on May 17 (Saturday).

"The Ring" will be shown May 23. Admission is free.

Prior to the screenings at 8 p.m., Globe Gentxt will hold games with loads of prizes at stake. There are also free henna tattoo, fortune telling, foot massage and face painting.

The series of movie screenings and MTV on-ground events are meant to prepare and excite everyone for the much-awaited 2003 MTV Movie Awards on May 31 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Join Globe's Gentxt promo till May 18 and get the once-in-a-lifetime chance to watch the 2003 MTV Movie Awards live in L.A.

All Globe Gentxt subscribers can key in "MTV" in their mobile phone, send it to 2910 and answer the MTV movie awards trivia questions. Answer as many questions to get more points. Up for grabs are MTV Movie Awards premium items, mobile phones, plus trip to L.A. for the four overall top scorers.

The MTV 2003 Movie Awards will premiere on MTV Philippines (Channel 41) on June 14, 2 p.m. and will be replayed June 15, 9 p.m.

Media partners are Magic 89.9 dwTM, 92.3 Joey, 99.5 dwRT, Monster Radio RX 93.1, 103.5 K-Lite, MTV Ink, Pulp, Seventeen, Preview, Cosmopolitan and Candy magazines.

REGINE'S EX Ariel Rivera will also be her partner in a September concert at the Folk Arts Theater.

Ariel Rivera is latest ABS-CBN star to move over to GMA 7

AFTER leaving ABS-CBN's noontime show, "Asap," **Ariel Rivera** will formally join GMA 7 through the soap, "Narito Ako," which will premiere in June.

Ariel will start taping for the soap next week, although it is not definite yet what "Narito Ako" will replace in the lineup of GMA 7 soaps –"Sana ay Ikaw na Nga," "Habang Kapiling Ka," "Ang Iibigin ay Ikaw Pa Rin" or "Kung Mawawala Ka."

Ariel will costar with **Raymart Santiago, Jolina Magdangal** and **James Blanco** in the new soap that will be directed by **Gina Alajar** and **Eric Quizon.**

Rumor says Ariel might also join GMA 7's Sunday noontime show, "S.O.P." to replace **Janno Gibbs,** who has gone on an indefinite leave from the show. Network executives suspended Janno after he walked out of the show following the backstage incident where his wife **Bing Loyzaga** complained that "S.O.P." hosts **Regine Velasquez, Jaya** and **Lani Misalucha** had "snubbed" her.

Ariel on "S.O.P." will certainly delight Ariel-Regine fans. The fans will be even more thrilled when Ariel and Regine reunite onstage in a concert at the Folk Arts Theater in September.

It was after the Ariel-Regine Valentine concert more than eight years ago at the Makati Shangri-La that their romance bloomed. Regine has not had another boyfriend.

Big Nose, Big Dome

"THE Big Nose," the concert of **Allan K** at Araneta Coliseum tonight, has a formidable lineup of guests: Regine Velasquez, **Arnel Ignacio, Ai-Ai de las Alas** and, in a rare stage appearance, **Tito, Vic** and **Joey.**

"Para kahit wala ako, matutuloy ang show at siguradong kikita," Allan jests.

But the singer-comedian admits he has been getting the jitters about his first major concert salvo. Who will forget his long-running comedy act, "Si Nura at si Velma," with Leonard Obal? But this is the first time Allan will do the Araneta Coliseum.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

The talented Ilonggo, who started joining amateur singing contests in his early teens, left his native Bacolod in 1984 after graduating from the West Negros College. After almost two decades of being a sing-along master, stand-up comedian, singer, TV host and film star, Allan K is getting his biggest break so far.

In "The Big Nose," he will display the comic prowess which earned for him last year's Aliw Award for best male stand-up comedian. He is a regular on TV's "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7 and "Sing-Galing" on ABC 5.

Basil's 25 years

IT WAS nice to see **Basil Valdez** on TV again, two Sundays ago when ABS-CBN's Sunday noontime show, "Asap," paid tribute to **Ryan Cayabyab** on the latter's birthday.

Basil sang his hits live, with Ryan on the piano. **Zsa Zsa Padilla** and two finalists of ABS-CBN's "Star in a Million" joined him in singing, among others, "Kahit Ika'y Isang Panaginip," "Ngayon at Kailanman" and "Kastilyong Buhangin."

I miss Basil at Captain's Bar stage, where he performed several times with Ryan as accompanist. I had long wanted to hear him sing again the Ryan Cayabyab composition, "Sometime, Somewhere."

My designer-friend, **Frederick Peralta,** is an expert when it comes to singing Basil's hits at I.O. videoke bar. Frederick can belt out Basil's "Ngayon" with ease.

When Basil appeared on TV, he had good news for his fans. He will join Side A in a two-night concert at Onstage in Greenbelt on May 16 and 17. Then he will embark on a US tour with Lani Misalucha in June and July.

MAJOR SALVO. Allan K holds solo concert.

In November, he will have his 25th anniversary concert at the Araneta Coliseum, with an 80-piece orchestra to be conducted by Ryan and a 24-member choir. **Johnny Manahan** will direct.

'Fashion Radio'

DON'T look now, but his fellow designers may be raising their eyebrows and wondering if he deserves a radio show. But whether they all turn green with envy or not, Frederick Peralta will be heard regularly on "Fashion Radio," a weekly program starting tomorrow, Saturday, at 6 p.m., on Wave 89.1 FM.

For his pilot airing, Frederick will interview former beauty queen **Melanie Marquez.** His future episodes will feature **Pops Fernandez** and Jaya.

Cito in politics

"ISYU," the late-night current affairs program hosted by **Korina Sanchez** and **Cito Beltran,** bid goodbye to viewers two Wednesdays ago which was, incidentally, the show's third anniversary.

It was a memorable closing telecast as "Isyu" aired its best episodes, including excerpts of Korina and Cito's exclusive interviews with deposed President **Joseph Estrada,** former First Lady **Imelda Marcos,** former Ilocos Sur Governor **Luis "Chavit" Singson,** extradited former Manila congressman **Mark Jimenez,** Senators **Ping Lacson** and **Juan Flavier,** former President **Fidel V. Ramos,** former presidential consultant **Dante Ang, Mary "Rosebud" Ong,** President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** and San Miguel Corp. big boss **Danding Cojuangco.**

Cito hinted that he would try other things aside from TV hosting. There's talk that he would run for office in next year's elections.

"It's time that I start to serve the country in another way than being in broadcasting," Cito said. "Watch out for my name in the newspapers in 2004."

Dawn taking over Lucy's ...

From page C1

Not just one

"People may wonder why the sudden change of hosts in the show's Season 2," said Toni Gregory, chair of Bridgesss@com, the company that handles Dove Soap's events and projects. Dove is behind the show.

"The idea is we change our hosts every season so that the viewers can identify and learn from more celebrity women, not just one woman," Gregory explained. "The thing with having just one host all throughout the show's run is that it becomes just 'her' program, which we are trying to avoid."

Gregory added that the hosts were chosen not because they are popular stars but because they are women who have also experienced how it is to keep house, juggle careers, be accomplished mothers and wives, and still manage to assert their personal styles and philosophies.

"Of course, the celebrity factor in the show still matters," said Gregory.

Empowerment

She also noted it was interesting how Lucy and Dawn came from different sides of the "celebrity fence."

"Dawn was one of the hottest actresses around before she married her husband, after which she chose to take a sabbatical from show biz to take care of her family," she said. "On the other hand, Lucy was enjoying relative anonymity before she wedded a popular star (Richard Gomez), and became one herself. She was instantly thrust into the spotlight and assumed the role of a celebrity wife and mom."

Both stars, Gregory said, have gone through the important stage of female empowerment, realizing how important their roles as women are to the people around them.

Dawn agreed, saying her time off from the rigors of Tinseltown has taught her to enjoy what she considers the "finer things in life": raising a family and running a household while exploring her creative side and venturing into her own business.

Novelty business

"I have always been interested in the arts, but show biz never really permitted me to do what I liked," she told INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview.

"My 'early retirement' allowed me to conceive of a novelty items business: I create things for the home which nobody thought of making but are really useful like drawer sachets and mantel bags, and then I sell them in bazaars."

Dawn said her experiences have encouraged her to accept the hosting job. "Since my first appearance on the show as Lucy's guest several episodes back, I already felt that the show's theme is really close to my heart."

She said she is really excited about delving into the lives of her guests, finding out their personal tastes and finding out how different everyone is in terms of empowering themselves and celebrating their womanhood.

"Our segments, Your Style, Your Home, Your Taste, Your Body, and Your Being, will deal with interesting issues for women from all walks of life, topics like how our guests raise families, celebrate their singleness, how they keep their well-being or how they express themselves through their respective lifestyles," the show's new host added.

Dream interviews

Dawn said the show has booked Jessica Soho and Cherie Gil as their first guests.

"It would be a dream come true if I could interview former President Cory Aquino and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and ask them questions that would reveal their personal styles and tastes like how they choose furniture, how they de-stress, and how they express themselves creatively through their hobbies," she shared.

Dawn says her role as the "keeper of the household" has enabled her to reach her full potential as a woman and as a person.

"I never really wanted to grow old as an actress," she confided. "My dream was to get married and have children. I can say that right now, I am living that dream."

DEREK BREATHES OXYGEN
Veejay, model, show host and all-around nice guy Derek Ramsay, the 27-year-old, 5-foot-11, England-born hunk, continues to be the image model of Oxygen after several years because, according to the line's senior vice president for marketing Albert Ong, he "exudes confidence and grace yet seems very cool and nonchalant about it." Derek is a known collector of caps and already has more than 50 in his closet. Some caps were given to him as gifts, others he bought during his many trips around the Philippines and abroad. Oxygen line includes men's and ladies' clothes, accessories and underwear. Visit *www.oxygentm.com.*

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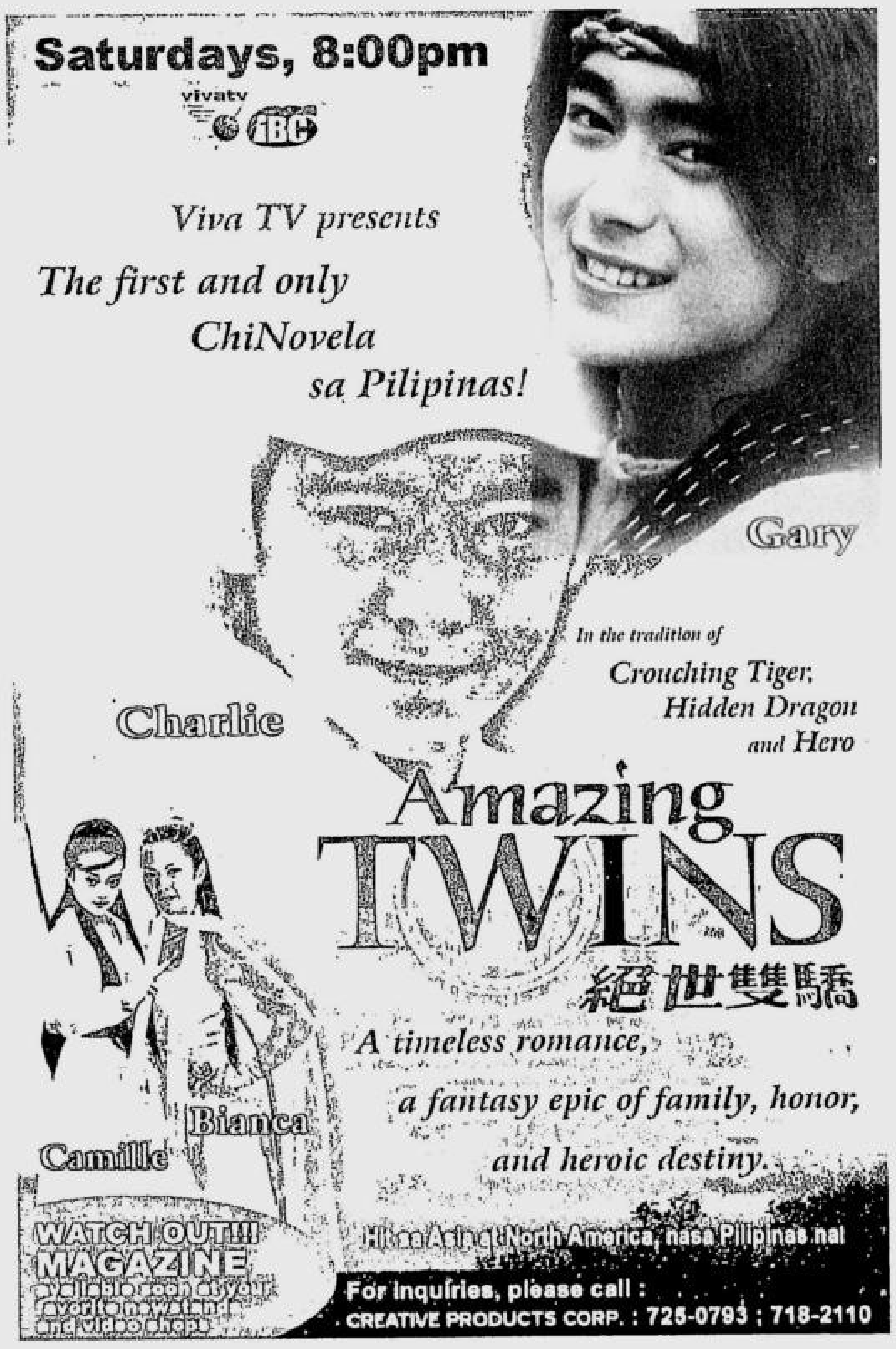

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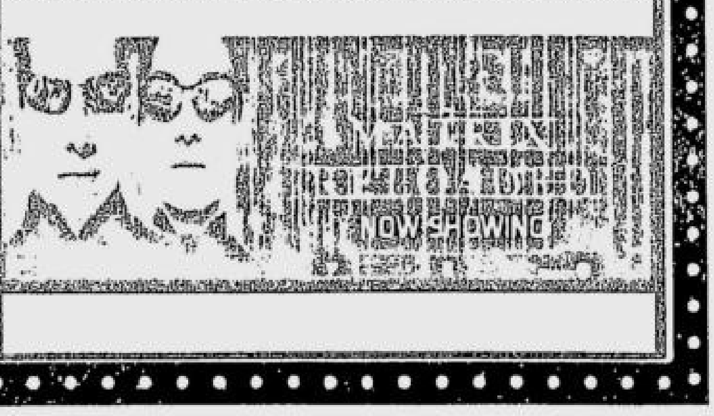

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Images on my TV screen

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FIVE new singing standouts have been introduced on the "Star in A Million" portion of "Asap Mania," Channel 2's Sunday noontime special.

The singing tilt's "sequential elimination" format is reminiscent of "American Idol" on US TV, but that's tolerable. The important thing is to discover really gifted new singers, and to give viewers a chance to root for them in the process.

It's also good that, when the new batch of singing contenders was introduced, the capsule profiles on each of them no longer descended to the bathetic level of boo-hoo melodrama. It's really better to make the contestants shine or fall on the basis of looks and talent alone. No more tears!

Also welcome is the shift of the morning show "Teysi" from "naughtly" topics to wholesome material on its 8 a.m. weekday time slot on Channel 2. When we tuned in to the show last May 12, it featured the siblings of popular celebrities like **Judy Ann Santos**, **Bernard Palanca**, **Lani Misalucha** and **Kristine Hermosa**, and the long panel discussion held viewers' attention.

Host **Tessie Tomas** also looked more comfortable with the show's readjusted focus, because she didn't have to push her guests to come up with "hot" and controversial statements. The show's 8 a.m. slot dictates that the things be kept wholesome, and that's what the show is doing now, without losing its interest value. We hope Teysi keeps it it up.

Speaking of **Kristine Hermosa**, she has a new soap with **Jericho Rosales** starting May 19, but she candidly admitted on "Teysi" that she and her former "reel and real" boyfriend are no longer a romantic item.

How will this affect the *kilig* value of their new telenovela? Some viewers can be so literal-minded, and expect the love scenes they see on the small screen to be reflective of a real romance.

> Some viewers can be so literal-minded, and expect the love scenes they see on the small screen to be reflective of a real romance

Thankfully, more viewers have ceased to be so demanding, and can now realistically take screen lovers simply as actors playing their roles.

This was recently proven by the success of the latest Judy Ann Santos-**Piolo Pascual** starrer, "Till There Was you," at the tills. Fans eagerly patronized the film and made it a big hit even when most of them knew that Juday and Piolo weren't really in love with each other.

Kristine and Jericho hope that the same thing will happen to the new soap. We hope so, too, because local viewers really must grow up and stop being so delusional about the entertainment they get.

Feedback

FROM **Zander Romero** of Makati City: "You should continue with your crusade to clean up the TV screen, particularly during the daytime hours when children are watching. I, too, have seen and heard things on TV that would disturb young viewers.

"Don't the people working in our TV networks have children? Aren't they parents, too?

"If so, they should know what young viewers shouldn't be exposed to, and do their work accordingly.

"Another scandal on television is the proliferation of shows hosted by incompetent people. They are usually politicians or other social or civic leaders who plan to run in the elections next year.

"They are doing their shows not to serve or inform the public, but to become better known, to improve their chances of winning in the 2004 polls.

"Meanwhile, viewers have to put up with their bad hosting. Poor us!"

Going batty on NGC

THE NATIONAL Geographic Channel goes batty at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, with **"Hayden Turner's** Wildlife Challenge: Wrinkle Lipped Bats."

Hayden travels to Thailand's Kho Yi National Park in search of a unique species of wrinkle lipped bats known to roost in groups of over 1 million individuals. But his attempt to witness the bats' thunderous night flight is thwarted by an unexpected downpour. Will Hayden be able to dry out, sleep it off, and return the next day?

Aniston in 'Bruce'

"BRUCE Almighty" stars **Jim Carrey** and co-stars **Jennifer Aniston** as his girlfriend. She's proud of her participation in the movie because it tries to infuse spirituality into its storyline.

"It's an unusual achievement to be able to combine great laughs and some thoughtful moments," she observes.

"Bruce Almighty" also stars **Morgan Freeman**, and is directed by **Tom Shadyac**.

COMFORTABLE TV HOST. Tessie Tomas.

The original ...

From page C6

Two years ago, according to Boots, Moreno was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver, but doctors decided against a liver transplant. They said that at his age, he might not be able to fully recuperate from the operation.

"But he is responding well to treatment," says Boots. "Besides, he diligently does his exercise every morning."

Moreno also has a kidney ailment, although it is not too severe to require dialysis, his daughter says.

At home, Moreno says he enjoys playing card games with friends. He admits he fathered children with other women but he married Boot's mother, Belen Cristobal, a University of the East (UE) professor. They have three daughters and a son.

He says he has lived a full life and has traveled to Paris, London, Madrid, Tokyo and the USA.

"But what I'm most proud of are my children," he says. "It's amazing how they grew up close to each other."

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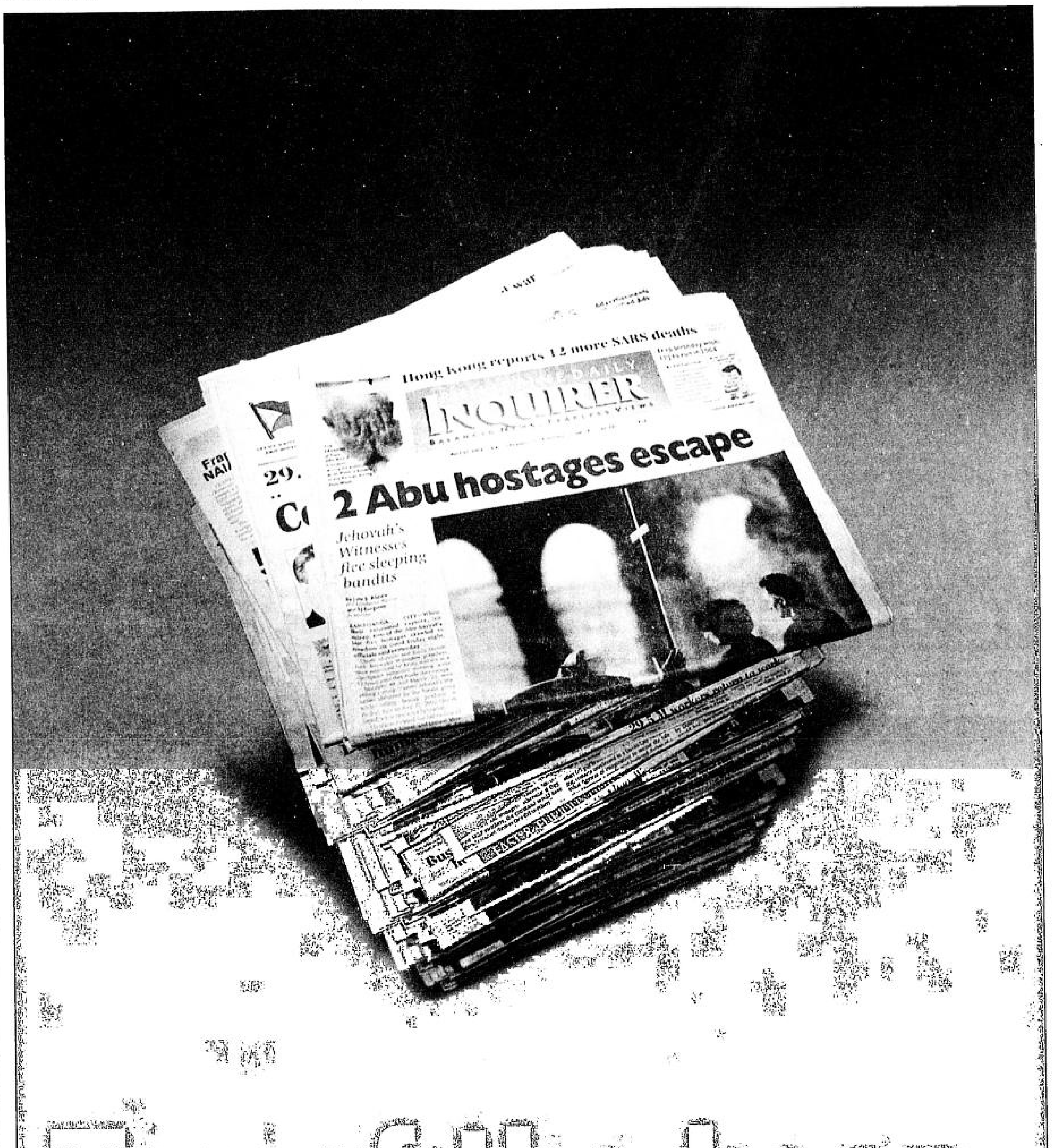

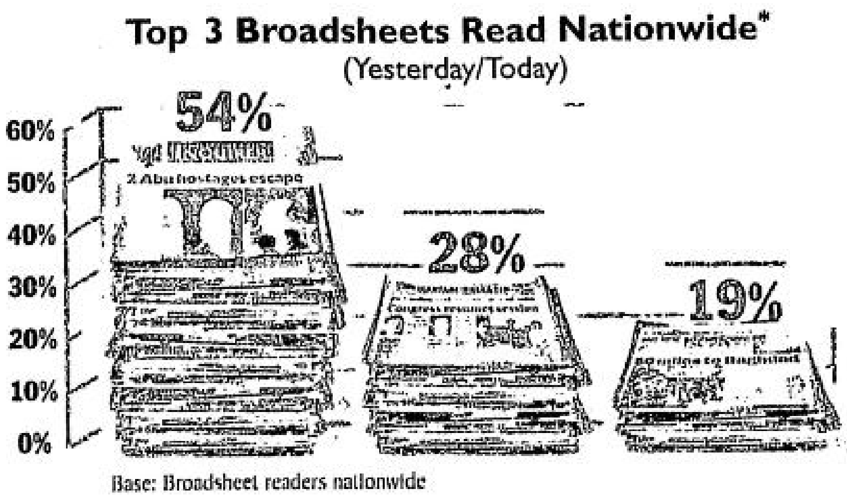

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News that makes a difference

The original 'heartthrob'

FATHER Oscar with daughters (from left) Joannie, Boots and Vicky.

From page C8

His life during the Japanese Occupation was like a movie with a lot of suspenseful twists. He spent a month in prison because some Japanese officials suspected him of being a spy for the Filipino guerillas.

Imprisoned

He recalls that on the night he was to be arrested, he was in a party with friends at the Royal Room of the Avenue Hotel in Sta. Cruz. "They thought I was a guerilla messenger because I was hopping from table to table, chatting with friends," he explains.

Japanese authorities later broke into his house at 3 a.m. and arrested him. He says he endured month-long imprisonment with nine other Filipinos in a cramped prison cell.

"We sat on the floor and weren't allowed to talk with each other," he says. "Prisoners caught talking were tortured. For a month I was eating only squash and rice."

He was eventually released from prison with the help of a Japanese captain. But another tragedy struck while he was on board a train to his hometown in Camalig. A band of guerillas waylaid the train and a bullet hit Moreno in the left shoulder. He spent the next three weeks in an Albay hospital.

Card games

"I was so thin and weak," he says. "My feet were swollen and I developed a terrible case of athlete's foot."

THE ORIGINAL/ C5

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CINEMA-3	XEREX
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MIND
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA-6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-7	BAYARAN
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CINEMA-14	TILL THERE WAS YOU
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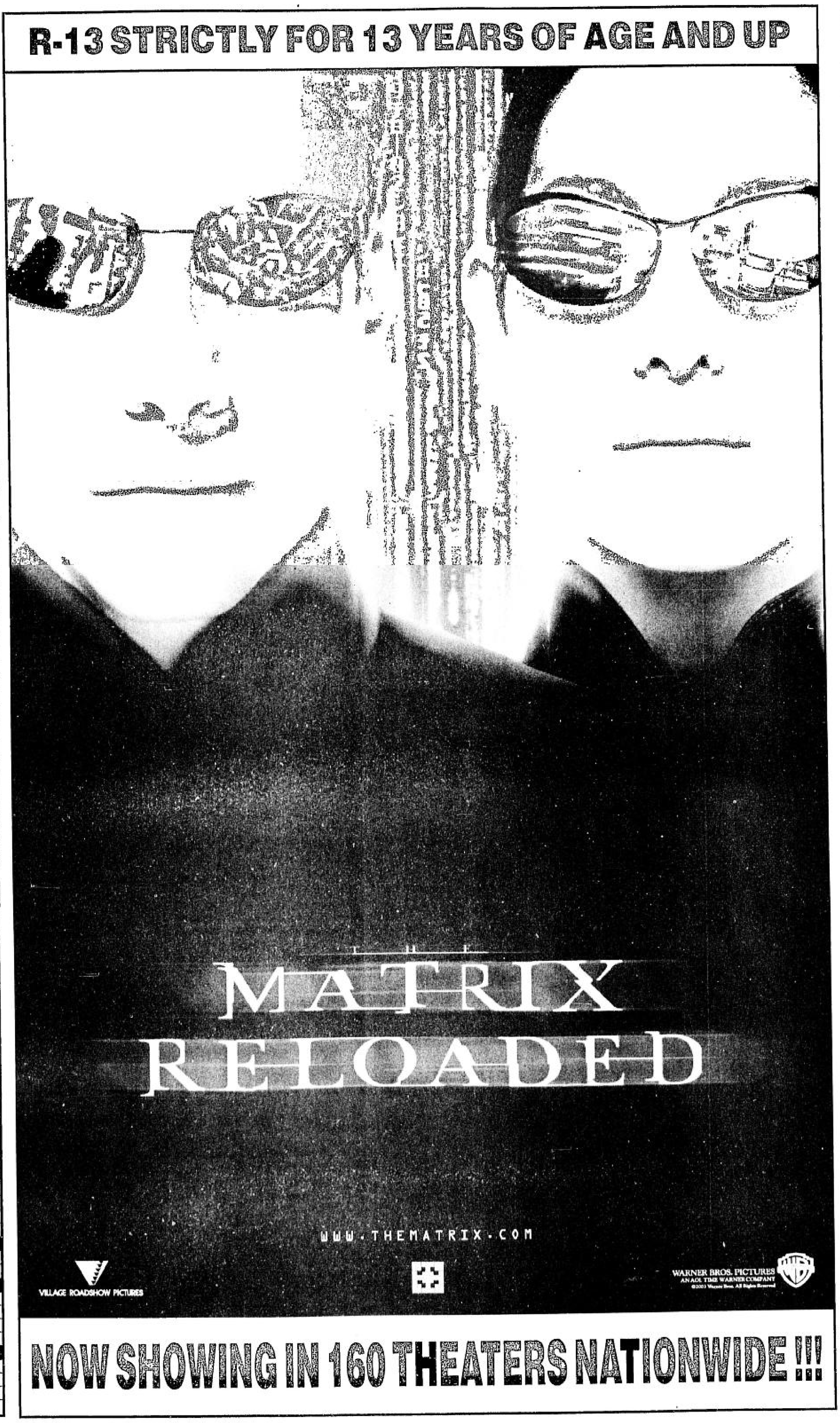
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Tight race among Urian best picture, best acting nominees

THE MANUNURI ng Pelikulang Pilipino will end the colorful movie awards season on Saturday, May 17, with the 26th Gawad Urian at the AFP Theater in Camp Aquinaldo, Quezon City.

Manunuri members promised surprises in this year's awards. They noted a tight race in the the best picture and best acting categories.

Edu Manzano and Paolo Bediones will cohost the show. Segment hosts include Sharon Cuneta and Lorna Tolentino.

Regine Velasquez, Aiza Seguerra, Janno Gibbs, Anna Fegi, Ciarra Sotto, the Sex Bomb Dancers, Michael Stana, and the 17:28 and 604 Dancers will perform.

Presenters will include Kris Aquino, Maricel Soriano, Richard Gomez, Lucy Torres, Jeffrey Quizon, Angelu de Leon, Danica Sotto, James Blanco, and Rudy Fernandez.

"AMERICAN ADOBO" NOMINEES. Cherry Pie Picache for best actress and Ricky Davao for best actor.

The show will be televised on RPN-9.

The Gawad Urian is widely considered the chief barometer of excellence in Philippine filmmaking. Handed out by the Manunuri, the society of respected film critics, the award is the most coveted in the movie industry.

QUIZON. "Utang ni Tatang."

The Manunuri chair is Gigi Javier-Alfonso, professor of film at the UP College of Mass Communications. The members are Nicanor Tiongson, former artistic director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and former chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board; Bienvenido Lumbera, 1993 Ramon Magsaysay Award laureate; Ellen Paglinauan, dean of the UP College of Mass Communication; Mario Hernando, Sunday Malaya editor; Bro. Mike Rapatan, FSC, head of the communications department of De La Salle University; columnist and television personality Butch Francisco; Rolando Tolentino, cultural studies lecturer at the Osaka University; and Lito Zulueta, INQUIRER editor and professor at the University of Santo Tomas.

The complete list of nominees this year:

Best picture: "Dekada '70" (Star Cinema), "Laman" and "Mano Po" (Regal Films), and "Mga Munting Tinig" (Teamwork Productions and CAP Phil. Inc.).

Best director: Laurice Guillen ("American Adobo"), Joel Lamangan ("Mano Po"), Gil Portes ("Mga Munting Tinig"), Rory Quintos ("Kailangan Kita"), Maryo J. de los Reyes ("Laman"), and Chito Roño ("Dekada '70").

Best actor: Ricky Davao ("American Adobo"), Rudy Fernandez ("Diskarte"), Christopher de Leon ("Dekada"), Jay Manalo ("Prosti"), Albert Martinez ("Laman"), Aga Muhlach ("Kailangan Kita"), Vhong Navarro ("Jologs"), and Yul Servo ("Laman").

Best actress: Claudine Barretto ("Kailangan Kita"), Dina Bonnevie ("American Adobo"), Ara Mina ("Mano Po"), Cherry Pie Picache ("American Adobo"), Alessandra de Rossi "Munting Tinig"), and Vilma Santos ("Dekada").

Best supporting actor: Tirso Cruz III ("Mano Po"), Johnny Delgado ("Kailangan Kita"), Jay Manalo ("Mano Po"), Piolo Pascual ("Dekada"), and Jeffrey Quizon ("Utang ni Tatang").

Best supporting actress: Irma Adlawan ("Munting Tinig"), Kris Aquino ("Mano Po"), Amy Austria ("Mano Po"), Dexter Doria ("Munting Tinig"), Madeleine Nicolas ("Paraisong Parisukat"), Elizabeth Oropesa ("Laman"), Judy Ann Santos ("Magkapatid"), and Raquel Villavicencio ("Prosti).

Best screenplay: Adolf Alix, Sennedy Que and Gil Portes ("Munting Tinig"); Lualhati Bautista ("Dekada"); Wali Ching ("Laman"); Roy Iglesias ("Mano Po" and "Prosti"); and Ned Trespeces ("Jologs").

Best cinematography: Shane Clemente ("Kailangan Kita"), Ely Cruz ("Munting Tinig"), Leslie Garchitorena ("Mano Po"), Richard Padernal ("Agimat"), Jon Red ("Utang ni Tatang"), and Ja Tadena ("Prosti").

Best production design: Jake de Asis ("Paraisong Parisukat"), Manny Morfe ("Dekada"), Nuel Naval ("Kailangan Kita"), Arthur Nicdao ("Munting Tinig"), and Judy Lou de Pio ("Laman").

Best editing: Renewyn Alano ("Laman"), Vito Cajili ("Jologs"), Tala Illenberger ("Mano Po"), George Jarlego ("Munting Tinig"), and Francis Vinarao ("Diskarte").

Best music: Archie Castillo ("Laman"), Tony Cortez ("Diskarte"), Jesse Lasaten ("Kailangan Kita"), Jesse Lucas ("Jologs"), and Joy Marfil ("Munting Tinig").

Best sound: Audio Media ("Agimat"), Noel Bruan and Ari Trofeo ("Munting Tinig"), Dan Ferat ("American Adobo"), Albert Michael Idioma and Alex Tomboc ("Dekada"), and Nestor Mutia ("Diskarte").

Sponsored by Head & Shoulders, Argentina Corned Beef, PLDT, Procter & Gamble, Sustagen, and Jollibee, the 26th Gawad Urian will be mounted by APT Productions.

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By Marinel R. Cruz

YESTERDAY

THE TERMS "matinee idol" and "screen heartthrob" seemed to have been made for his looks during his heyday. Indeed, today's best looking actors would pale in comparison with Oscar Moreno when he was, as a Madrid newspaper once said, "the Clark Gable of the Philippines," although he was far handsomer than even the Hollywood legend.

In the '50s, women went gaga over Moreno, just as today's girls are going crazy over Piolo Pascual. Towering at six feet well-built, Moreno had an abundance of sex appeal and charm, qualities that made it easy for him to be a star when he joined show biz at the age of 25.

Today, Oscar Gamboa Moreno is 82, but the refreshing and devastating good looks are still very plain to see.

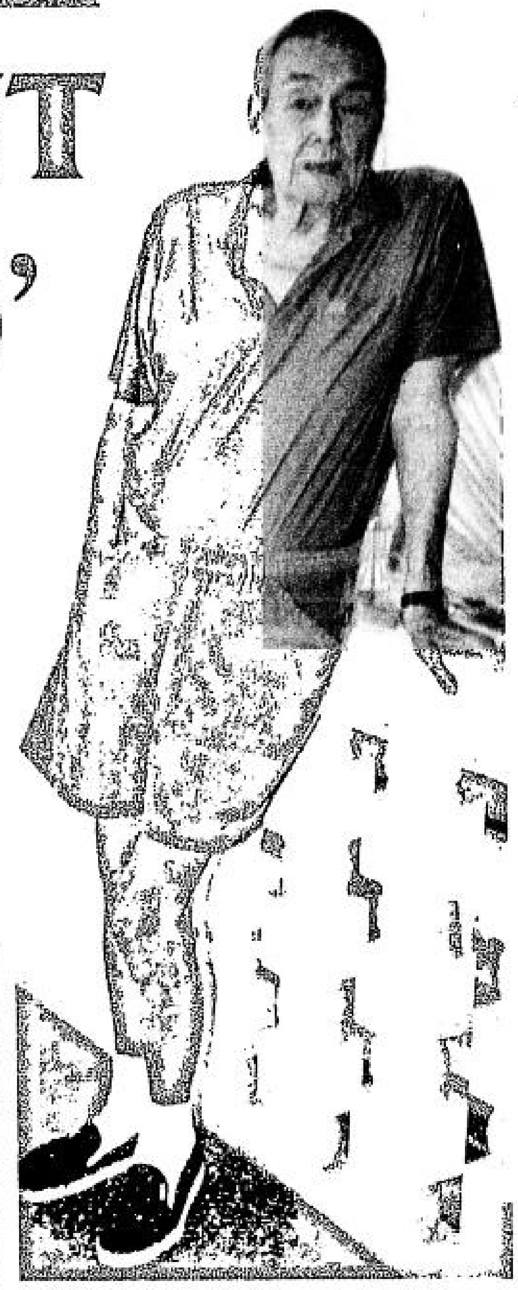
He says that, in fact, he is still asked to appear in movies and on television.

"He is not very confident about his memory anymore," explains his daughter, Boots Anson-Roa, who as a dramatic actress has preserved his well-respected name. "He also feels that there's not much discipline in the industry nowadays. Movie actors were a lot more serious about their craft back then."

Admired by 'Asiong'

Back then, Moreno started by doing a lot of playboy roles, playing opposite movie goddesses like Tita Duran, Carmen Rosales, Paraluman and Susan Roces, earning him the title the "nation's boyfriend."

He recalls that among his admirers then was the notorious Tondo toughie Asiong Salonga, whose life story was made into a movie in the '60s starring Joseph Estrada, who would become Philippine president and would be toppled two years after his election. Moreno says Salonga used to send him *balut* and invited him during the Tondo fiesta.



ORIGINAL STAR. Oscar Moreno, 82, says he has lived a full, colorful life. JOHNNY VILLENA

Moreno was born in Camalig, Albay. At first, his parents, Ramon Anson and Elisa Gamboa, did not approve of him joining show business. He had accompanied a friend, Manolito Moran, uncle of beauty queen Margie Moran-Florendo, to Sampaguita Pictures in Quezon City where his friend was to take a screen test, but studio matriarch Dolores H. Vera asked him Moreno to take the screen test, too.

Box-office hits

He passed the test and soon played second lead in Carmen Rosales' movie "Guerilyera" in 1946. The movie did well at the box-office. The following year, Moreno was launched as a dramatic actor in "Unang Pag-Ibig" opposite Tita Duran.

The success of "Unang Pag-Ibig," which Moreno says is one of his favorites, spawned more hits with Tita, like "Ang Anak ng Dagat," "Dahil sa Ina," "Ang Kapilya sa Daang Bakal," and "Maharlika."

He also starred in, among others, "Objective: Patayin si Magsaysay" with Aida Cariño, "Romeo at Julieta" with Erlinda Cortes, "Kilabot sa Makiling" with Lilian Leonardo and "Babalu" with Paraluman.

He last appeared in the Nora Aunor-Cocoy Laurel starrer "Lollipops and Roses" in 1975.

Kicked out

"Sampaguita Pictures treated me well," Moreno remembers while leafing through photo albums from his movie days, in the Quezon City home he shares with daughter Boots. "During my peak, I was making seven pictures a year."

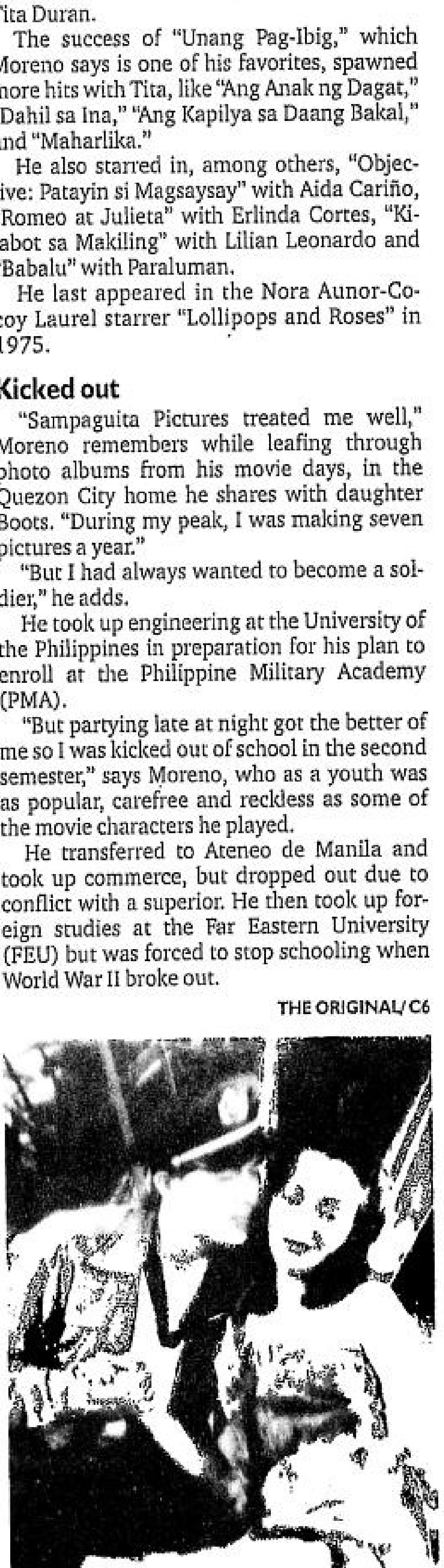
"But I had always wanted to become a soldier," he adds.

He took up engineering at the University of the Philippines in preparation for his plan to enroll at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

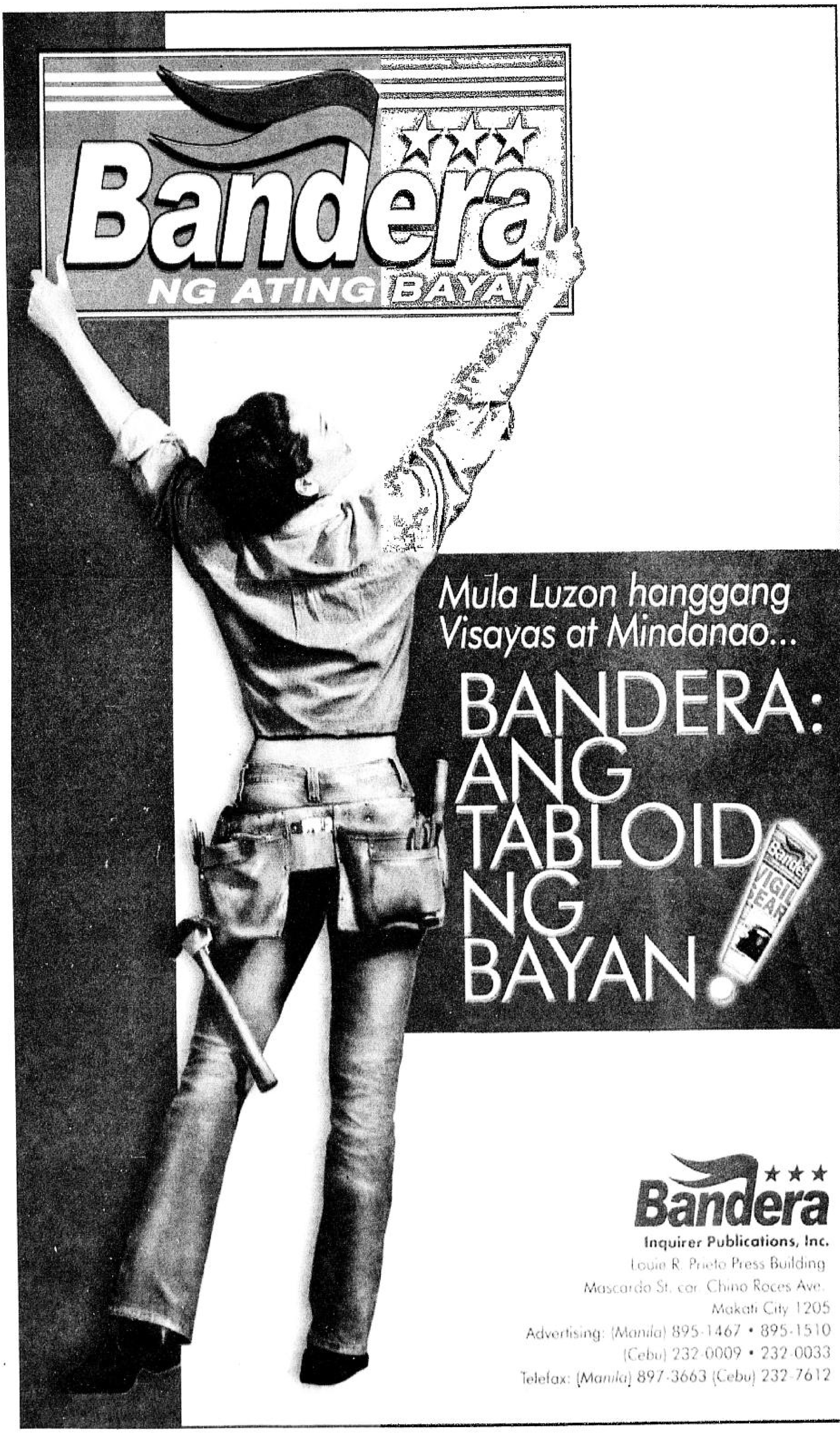
"But partying late at night got the better of me so I was kicked out of school in the second semester," says Moreno, who as a youth was as popular, carefree and reckless as some of the movie characters he played.

He transferred to Ateneo de Manila and took up commerce, but dropped out due to conflict with a superior. He then took up foreign studies at the Far Eastern University (FEU) but was forced to stop schooling when World War II broke out.

THE ORIGINAL/ C6



HEARTTHROB with Paraluman in "Sarawak," 1957. OSCAR MORENO'S COLLECTION



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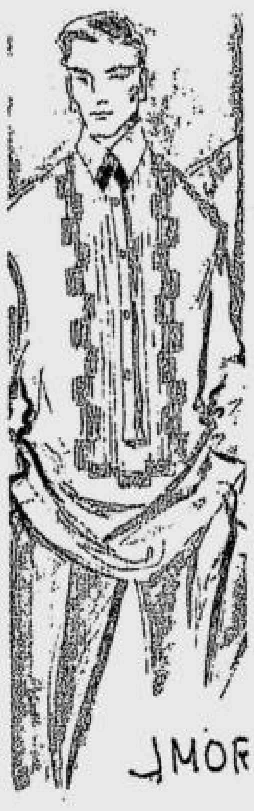
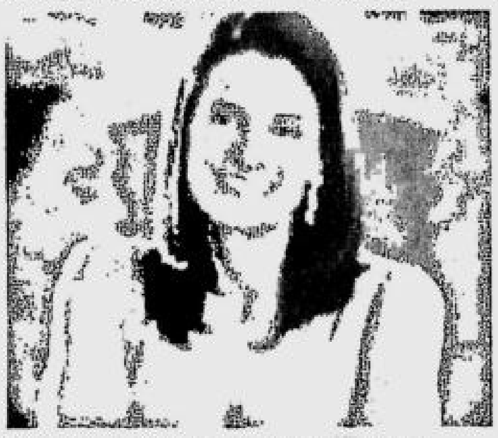


Dato Macapagal's 'Cong Dadong' barong by Pitoy Moreno page F1

Party sends Kakai Manotok off to wedded bliss page F1



Style Eyes on Bea Zobel Jr. page L1

Iconic fashion is going, going, gone page E1

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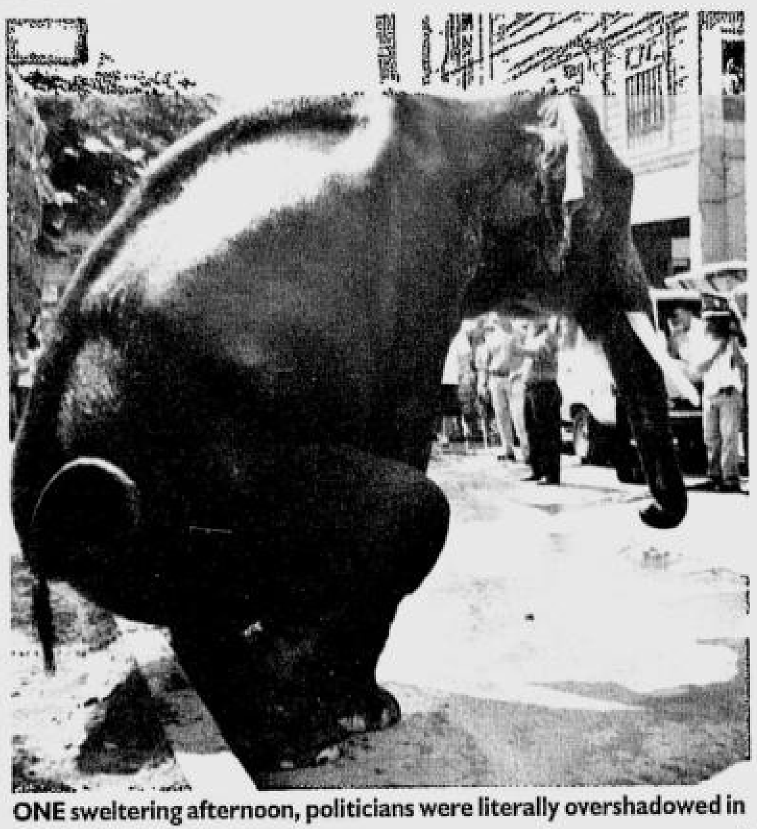
Operation jumbo headache



ONE sweltering afternoon, politicians were literally overshadowed in media reports.

AP

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

THE EIGHTH of May three years into the new millennium could be a historic turning point in the history of this archipelago.

It had nothing to do with the phenomenal box-office results of the latest movie team-up of Piolo Pascual and Judy Ann Santos. It did not even involve any of the eager beaver politicos who repackaged themselves as presidentiables—unable to contain their excitement while La Bonita Presidentita kept everyone wondering whether or not she had heard voices from Heaven telling her to change her mind and try to extend her stay at the Palace by getting elected.

Nor had it anything to do with any health scare about some exotic imported virus, a bomb blowing off civilians to smithereens in an airport, a church yard or a public market somewhere in the south. More surprising yet, it was not about another chapter in the telenovela life of Kris Aquino.

What made May 8 significant was something more phenomenal, more outlandish, more bizarre, more surreal than anything outlandish, bizarre or surreal seen on these islands.

It was about a publicity-seeking pachyderm unable to bear our summer weather—feeling too hot or just simply in heat. Yes, that animal that could go from cute to monstrous to monstrously cute, descendant of the mammoth and now transformed into a circus performer doing tricks with its dexterous trunk and noted for its sharp memory of things. Although come to think of it, what do elephants remember?

Media sensation

Well, the bozo decided to create some worthwhile, media-worthy memories while providing amusement to the transients and residents of the City of the Stars.

Around noontime that Thursday, Jumbo's tolerance reached its limit under the scorching heat and unbearable humidity of Cubao as he was being fed his lunch at the Araneta Center. Imported from Thailand (like about 85 percent of everything being sold in nearby Greenhills), Jumbo must have undergone some unique experience ranging from ennui to basic curiosity.

After all, an elephant's life in Manila can be so superlatively boring: back home, he is revered as a sacred mammal, painted and festooned with flowers, and treated with respect. Out here, he was just part of a much larger spectacle—made to parade, stand on twos or do some predictable tricks that almost anyone or anything (including equally talented dogs and monkeys) could execute with bored precision.

So after being stuffed with whatever and set temporarily free to exercise his stumpy legs, Jumbo decided there must be a whole new world out there waiting to be explored. He must have heard the cacophonic sounds of jeepneys, buses and cars in nearby Edsa and excited by the colorful billboards surrounding him, not to mention the prospect of seeing Willie Revillame or Vic Sotto do Punch and Judy acts while supervising the awaited game portions of their *pang-tanghaliang palabas*.

Everything or anything might have seemed better than being cooped up near the Big Dome and frying under the heat of the sun. So Jumbo decided to take a stroll.

Feeling at home

Except for that minor problem of stepping on a trainer, there was nothing particularly strange about his behavior as he bullied his way across the fence to Aurora Boulevard. He must have felt "at home *na* at home" on the street since what he saw was probably not very different from what he was familiar with in the forests of Thailand.

Jumbo must have made quite a sight as he tried to cross Edsa. There must have been screams from pedestrians, drivers and commuters who watched an… uh, *elefante*… cutting across the busiest street in the metropolis. "*Susmaryosep! May elepanteng tumatawid!*," "*Nanay, nanay! Tingnan mo! May elepante sa kalye!*" or maybe even "Oh, wowwwww… *ano itong tinira ko?*" Suddenly, the jaded citizenry got a taste of something more exotic and mind-boggling than a one-on-one interview of Boy Abunda.

Dear Jumbo must have raised his legendary trunk, waving that grotesque muscle from side to side, as he negotiated Aurora Boulevard. He was probably just trying to say, "Excuse me… excuse me… *Makikiraan lang po*." His size would not have allowed him to use the pedestrian flyover even if he wanted to do the right thing. Besides, he was probably telling himself, "*Pilipinas naman ito, eh*," even as he worried about causing damage to the flyover that would upset Mayor Belmonte or Chairman Fernando. *Mahirap na*. Foreigner *siya*.

There must have been literally a circus when he got to Ramon Magsaysay High School. He must have provoked shrieks like, "Ma'am, Ma'am… *may elepanteng papunta ng* canteen!" Or maybe the kids just shrugged their shoulders, continued texting or relishing their *manggang hilaw* spiced with *bagoong*. They could have assumed the elephant was another gimmick of someone running for councilor in the next elections.

Tempting treat

Plodding down Kamuning Street, no one thought he was going to the market to buy *tela* or have himself reupholstered. At the corner of Tomas Morato, he was delighted to find a traffic island in front of a bank branch lined with delicious Indian trees. The tall, dull, popsicle-looking trees could have proved too tempting for our hero.

He eventually found himself not only surrounded by people but also a) a crane, b) a fire truck , c) news teams from all the television stations and d) an assortment of government officials.

Now how many wannabe celebrities get this much media exposure, huh? How many of our *palaban artistas*, singers and politicians could have this much media coverage without pouring a drum of gasoline on their person and threatening to be a human fireball while singing "My Way"?

By 4 p.m., people were hosing Jumbo with water, feeding him bananas and proclaiming him to be the next big thing. As authorities tried to solve the problem like Jumbo by using mathematics and physics, the mischievous animal basked in all the attention. His fellow *elefantes*, if they managed to watch him on TV must have exclaimed, "*Grabe talaga si* Jumbo. *Iba siya*." Or even, "*Si* Jumbo *talaga*… That's why we never got along even in Pat Pong."

Finally, somebody decided to use tranquilizers—the only way to calm him down (a side show involved a movie actor, an elephant trainer and the art of spitting)—tie him up and load him to the truck to bring him home.

Kaya lang… kerplaaang! Lack of coordination or wrong calculation prevented Jumbo's four feet from landing on the truck.

The sedated elephant fell off the vehicle and crashed on a taxi parked nearby. TV cameras captured how the animal's head banged on the taxi's body, landed in a most unglamorous position with his testicles in full view of an amused audience that was cringing, wincing and trying to figure out the magnitude of the *kapalpakan*. Someone must have gasped, "*Diyos ko*! He is… big!"

Jumbo, now back with his peers, must be having adjustment problems. The other elephants probably look at him with admiration or disdain. One of them must have asked, "*Saan ka ba talaga papunta? Bakit ka dumaan ng* Kamuning? *Mas maganda sa* Timog."

For all we know, he only wanted to go to ABS-CBN to audition at the Talent Center. Or

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 1271 SERIES OF 2003

MALE models in summer attires

Fashion al fresco

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

WATCHES by Bvlgari, bags by Carbon, cocktail dresses by **Rhett Eala**, casual and summer suits by Hugo Boss—these were just some of the fashion brands served al fresco during the Tatler show at the Greenbelt gardens recently.

Fashion choreographer **Ariel Lozada** did a great job in coaching **Philip Cruz Jr.**, son of the construction businessman, to model confidently. The young man's mother, **Gina Vera-Perez**, watched him with pride.

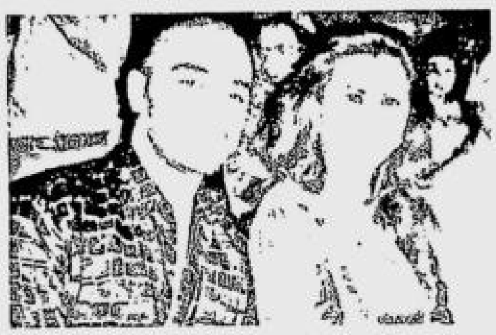
Scene-stealers on the ramp were beautiful **Phoemela**, long-haired **Grace Tagle** (whose shampoo TV commercial with **Richard Nazareth** has gone Asia-wide), svelte **Valerie**, senior model **Rachel Soriano** and a new batch of male models.

Off the ramp was another fashion show with socialites, businessmen, interior designers and shop owners wearing colorful summer outfits.

Standouts were **Ces Drilon**, **Vicky Zubiri** and a blooming **Pops Fernandez** in lacy white.

Mother-and-daughter tandems were **Maricris** and **Bianca Zobel** and **Marge** and **Mandy de la Rama**.

Couples of the night were **Raul Francisco** and **Joanna Preysler**, and **Louie** and **Cecile Ysmael**.

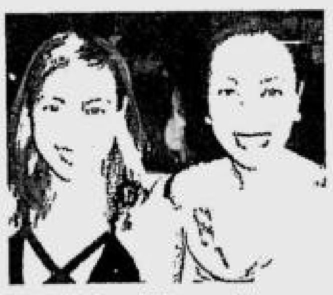


CESAR Montano and Gina de Venecia

LULU Tan Gan

DR. Randy Francisco and Irene Martel

LOUIE and Cecile Ysmael



MANDY and Marge de la Rama

BEN Chan and Miguel Pastor

CHABS Tan, Ralph Joseph and Carmela Bocangera

PHILIP Cruz Jr. modeling Hugo Boss

PARTY host Anton San Diego with Gigi Mabanta, Ces Drilon, Marylou Koa, Joy Wassmer and Pops Fernandez

Operation . . .

From page D2

maybe he wanted to be interviewed by Korina Sanchez on "TV Patrol." Perhaps he was on his way to GMA-7 to submit his life story to Mel Tiangco for a possible feature in "Magpakailanman."

Meanwhile, someone in government wants Jumbo deported for posing a threat to the lives of Filipinos, violating the laws of the land, creating havoc... not to mention crushing the ribs of a trainer who tried to block his path. Worse yet, he is a foreigner without a passport. He should be considered an *elefante* non grata—or perhaps a terrorist.

One fine Thursday afternoon, an elephant decided to take a hike from Cubao to the corner of Kamuning and Tomas Morato. Only in the Philippines, I tell you. Only in the Philippines.

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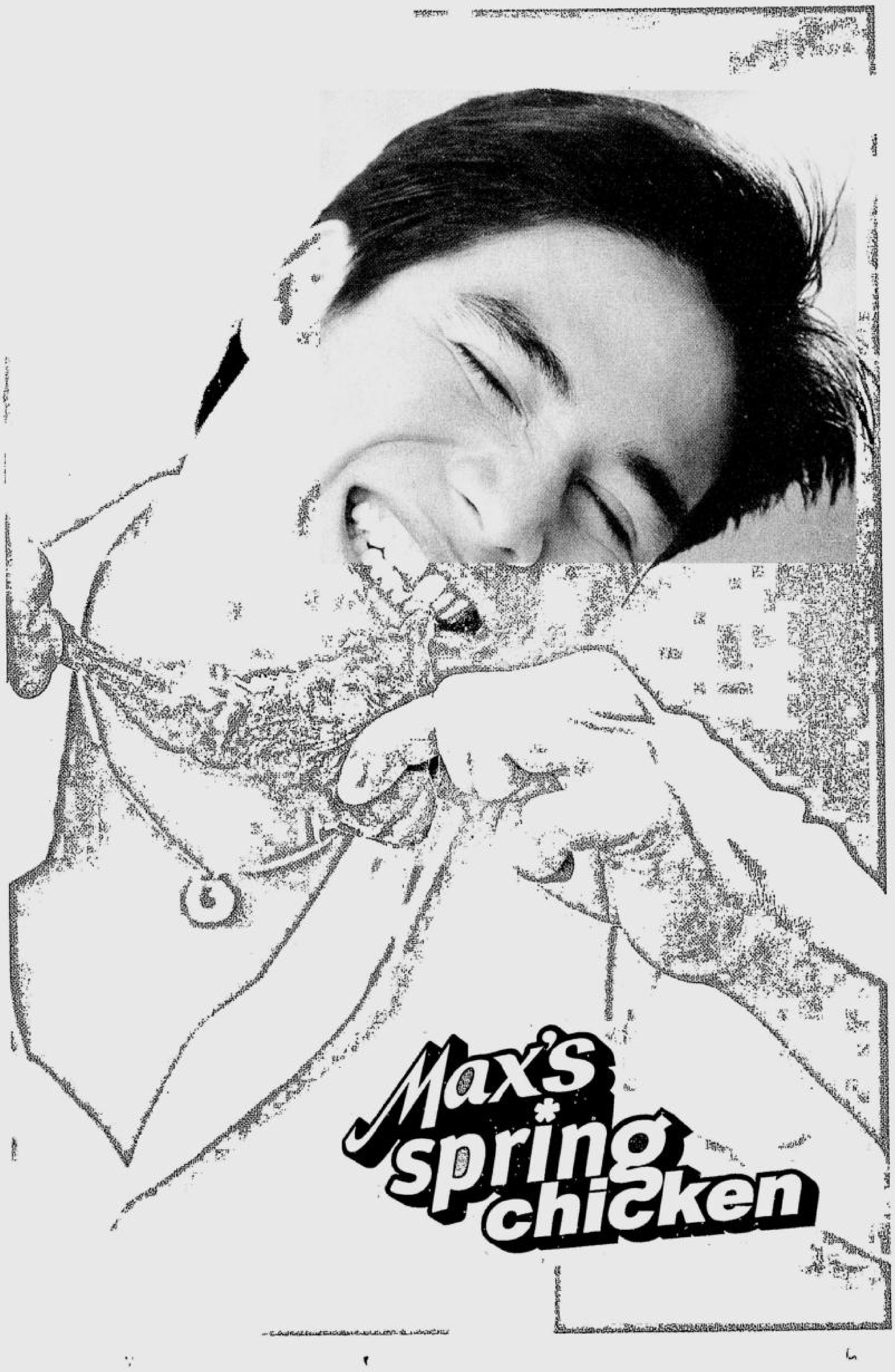

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Are we seeing the death of iconic fashion?

Expensive labels and cheap knockoffs are dimming the sheen of iconic products

FROM DRIES van Noten: A standout jacket of satin jacquard in a special combination of cotton eyelet

By Kitty Go
Contributor

ONE night, I bumped into a neighbor who was carrying an iconic Balenciaga bag—the Balenciaga bag of the buckles-and-flowing-leather-strips that two years ago had a waiting list longer than Kuya Germs has been on the air.

Just over a year ago, every fashionista worth her Manolo shoe collection had to have Tom Ford's Mombasa bag for Yves Saint Laurent. But like the revered Balenciaga bag and the Tod's tote, it is so out, you couldn't give it away. But of course, you could get copies in Schenzen.

What becomes of an icon?

When former Saint Laurent muse Loulou de la Falaise sets up a store that reflects not just her name but her personality (at 7 Rue de Bourgogne, Paris) and Gucci is doing a made-to-order handbag business, you know the days of what the retail trade calls "icon products" are over.

Icon products, in pedestrian terms, are the must-haves design houses push through advertising, magazines and celebrities every season. They are the "recognizable" items that scream designer label, such as the Fendi baguette, the Gucci bridle loafer, the Dior saddle bags, the Louis Vuitton Murakami bags, the Celine "Boogie" bags, the Saint Laurent lace-up blouse, and the Chloe white pompom dress.

Every one of them gets maximum editorial and ad space. Most are knocked off instantly and many are, or have become, house classics.

But what to do in the meantime as you wait for the product to turn into a classic while setting yourself apart from the Virra Mall and Schenzen brigade?

Potential classics are hard to spot instantly (if I had that skill I wouldn't be slaving as a journalist), but icon products are as big a giveaway as Estée Lauder product samples.

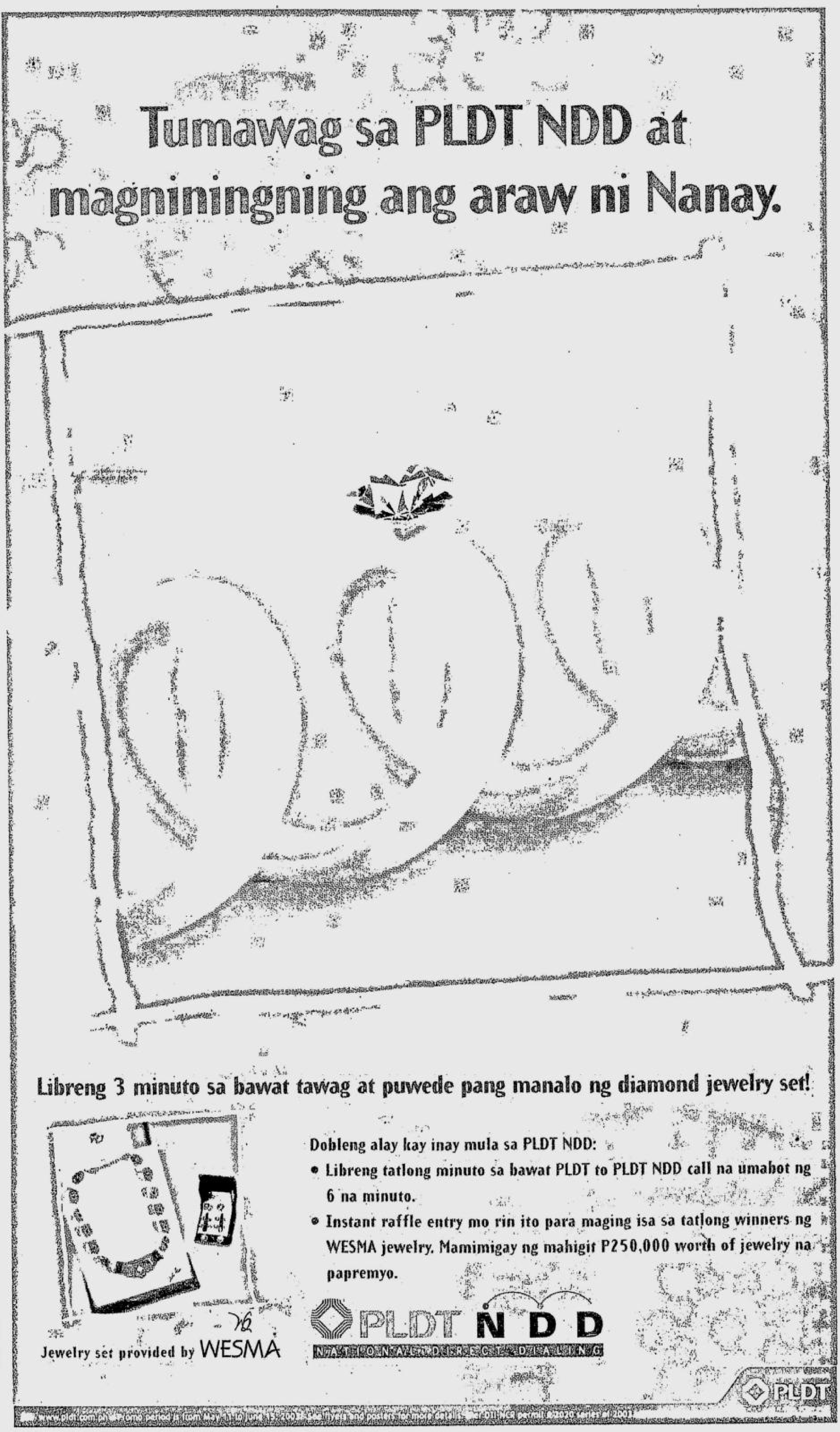
Icon products are on the wish list of every fashion victim at the start of the season. In fact, typical icon products like the Murakami bags of LV would be sold out before hitting the stores. They are worn to awards ceremonies or carried at public events. They get as much coverage in InStyle magazine as any celebrity would.

The goods are usually touted as the next most fashionable or "hip" thing to have. (If they are so ubiquitous, doesn't that single-handedly lower the "hip" factor?)

However, for us who don't get the bag from

ARE WE/ E2

CONTRASTS always stand out as Junya Watanabe shows here with a tailored top with a draped bottom plus the punch of purple footwear.



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ONLY for the confident: Too many looks can spoil the brew, but at Yohji Yamamoto, he pulls off exaggeration, asymmetry and androgyny in one chic outfit.

JACKIE O shades with a boxy suit is so predictable, but with ruffles and tiers, Junya Watanabe brings together the Caribbean and Camelot.

A DOUBLE-BREASTED coatdress gets the special treatment from Yohji Yamamoto.

DRIES van Noten's graphic and floral combination is distinctive for its pulled-together look than for its recognizable label.

Are we seeing the death of iconic fashion?

From page E1

Marc's first delivery or the dress from Karl's sample room, by the time we jump the waiting queue and acquire the coveted iconic item, it will have "out" written all over it before we leave the store.

There are two ways of acquiring a potential iconic item, but you will need: a) connections and information but, hopefully, not from Mohammed Saeed Sahaf of the former Iraqi government, b) an eye/feel for what's next and c) luck—which brings me to my Juicy Couture story.

Juicy tale

Prodded by John Eshaya at Fred Segal in Los Angeles, I bought Juicy and Michael Stars T-shirts in the late '90s.

The super low V-necks are the best. Two years ago I was invited to a contractor's sweater sample sale in an industrial area of Hong Kong. I went only because of this factory-produced cashmere, and I am a sucker for any deals on cashmere. The e-mail read, "These hooded cashmere sweaters and matching pants are the best things to put on after a long day..."

When I got to the showroom, I noticed most of the samples were embroidered, striped and solid Juicy Couture sweaters in orange, red, pink, gray, blue etc. I was in cashmere heaven. Whether they were Juicy or not, I would have bought them. At HK$500-600 each (about US$80) I wanted to kill myself in the taxi for having paid too much for samples. The contractor told me, "We have shipped a few orders of these. Can you imagine? Tracksuits in cashmere!"

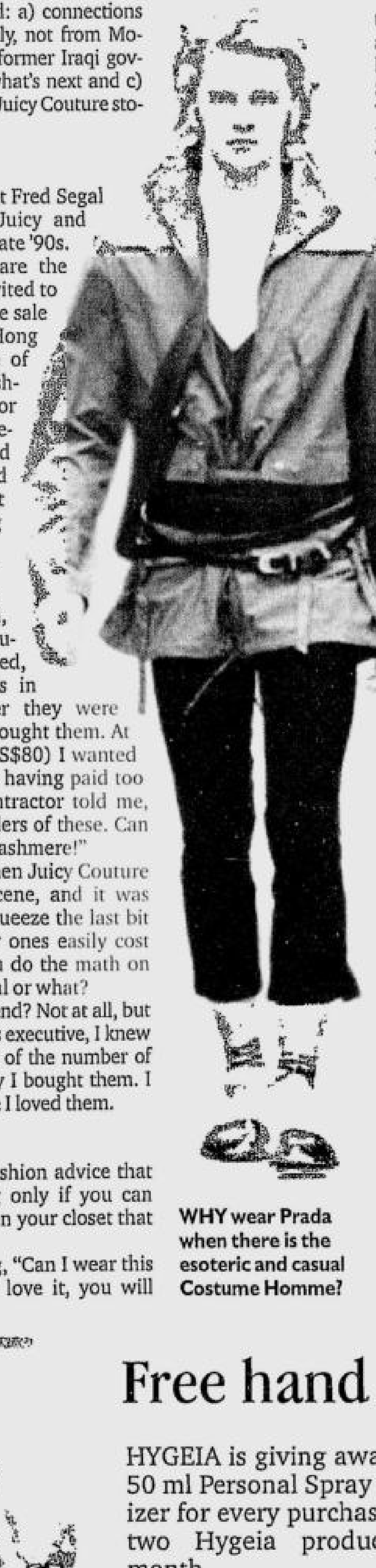
Cut to end of last year when Juicy Couture tracksuits burst into the scene, and it was harder to find them than squeeze the last bit out of a lemon. The velour ones easily cost over a hundred dollars. You do the math on the cashmere. Did I get a deal or what?

Did I know I was onto a trend? Not at all, but being an ex-garment business executive, I knew a trend was coming because of the number of deliveries. But that's not why I bought them. I bought the tracksuits because I loved them.

Buy what you love

I do not believe in the fashion advice that you should buy something only if you can think of at least two things in your closet that will go with it.

Nor do I believe in asking, "Can I wear this 24/7?" Who cares? If you love it, you will wear it. And no matter how fabulous an iconic product is touted, if you're not in love with it, then don't go into a relationship with it.



WHY wear Prada when there is the esoteric and casual Costume Homme?

Classics need not be basic. The uniqueness of a sumptuously embroidered Adrienne Landau show-stopping coat can be as enduring as a black Yohji Yamamoto trench.

Lifestyle forecaster Li Edelkoort, told the International Herald Tribune (3/12/03), "We are entering a phase of sustainable style... The likes of Dries Van Noten or in London Paul Smith are the brands we'll be intrigued with. They are very clever at making the right basics. But these styles will be mixed eccentrically. This includes crazy, one-off pieces because the unique is as sustainable as a jean."

Just because what you wear is not in the magazines, that doesn't mean you haven't kept pace with the fashion pack. On the contrary, you may be ahead.

Labels such as Viktor and Rolf, Costume National (both at Homme et Femme at Edsa Shangri-La), Junya Watanabe, Maurizio Pecoraro and Yohji Yamamoto (all at Joyce in Hong Kong and Taipei), Vivienne Westwood (at 44 Conduit St., London) are not exactly multiple page advertisers nor celebrity-endorsed labels.

Like Paul Smith, they are the last of the few privately held garment companies whose styles are very influential and preferred by fashion insiders.

Paul Smith (available at Glorietta) is known for his irreverent yet stylish treatment of traditional English tailoring, embodied in what.he is best known for—the surprise of brightly colored or printed suit linings.

But if you must do iconic...

Before plunking down your hard-earned cash on an iconic product, ask yourself the following questions:

Will it be copied in Schenzen? Schenzen copies styles that are mainstays of the collection, easily recognizable and have major ad campaigns where the product is clearly illustrated. Examples are the Prada nylon bag line with the triangle logo, the LV Epi and monogram leather goods, Dior logo and a number of bags and basically almost everything ever made.

Based on return on investment, really top-quality Schenzen copies (those which even the staff at LV or Fendi cannot tell the difference and because of expert copying, Prada has put in computerized inventory control cards on its goods) cannot be of originals that cost too much and have too long of a delivery turn time such as the Hermes Kelly or Birkin.

If you're going to spend US$6,000 on a bag that will take nine months to deliver (so that by that time it has already been copied), you lose your entire production time, not to mention opportunity for sales.

Nor is it worth it to mass-produce bags of exceptional quality and detail without immediate recognition, like Lambertson Truex (at Wish in 6750 building, Ayala).

Will I love it even if I see Judy Ann Santos wearing it? If image matters to you as much as it does to me, you must consider this question very carefully. I wouldn't want what J.Lo has, butt and Ben Affleck included.

Is it the first issue? First issues are the initial deliveries when the icon product has not quite become iconic. One example is the Prada quilted bags with chain straps from the late '80s to early '90s. The first issues had plain chain straps while the re-issues had chain straps with leather strips that rest on your shoulder. The idea behind a first issue is the subtle recognition of "I had it before the herd."

Do I really love it or do I just love it because everyone loves it now—like "The Matrix Reloaded"? The more time I spend with dogs, the more I realize the similarities between pack animals and fashion victims. Both species do not want to be left behind. No where is the mantra, "I'll have what she's having," more evident than in the fashion victim's wardrobe.

Therefore, if you absolutely, positively must have that item in the room, accept a substitute.

In the meantime

The idea of an icon product is like a high school crush: You think you really love him, but you don't know for how long. Usually, because you paid so much for it, you force yourself to love it well past its millennium sell-by date.

My advice: Buy a copy but make sure it's a copy of a piece that exists in the collection. If you still love it after a season, perhaps you should consider buying the real thing if it's not discontinued.

What if you bought an iconic item, say the Dior saddlebag, and now are not only saddled with the debt of paying for it, but also with something you cannot give away because: a) it is so unstylish that Dior is making miniatures of it as makeup giveaways, and b) you spent so much on it you cannot bring yourself to give it up?

There is of course, the Patek Philippe saying, "You do not own it, you merely take care of it for the next generation..." And indeed that is what happens to icons, from Marilyn Monroe to Mombasa bags. Like fireworks, they dazzle then fizzle at their height. Decades later when you bring them out, they develop a cult following.

E-mail the author at kitty_go@hotmail.com

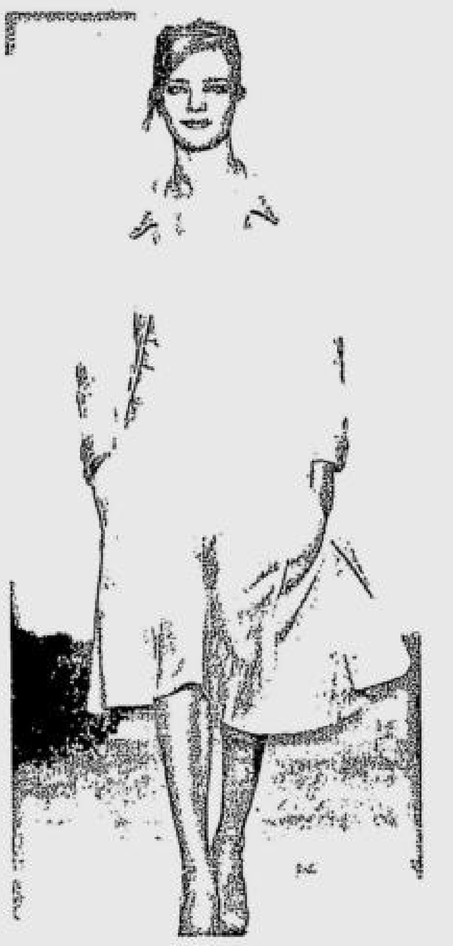
Skirts aplenty in new DKNY collection

DONNA Karan's spring collection features plenty of skirts, from knee-length pleated, peppy minis and low-slung skinny pencils to tulle-lifted swing skirts.

But that's not all. She also showcases pleated minis, retro-tinged dresses, cargo capri pants, short shorts and pencil shirts, as well as knee-length coats atop full-skirted dresses, quirky tailored tops, scarf tube tops and jersey tanks and low-slung trousers.

Interesting details abound, such as polka dots, puckering, pin-tucking articulated seams and contrast, pleats and smocked pockets. Soft sweaters are worn with full skirts, and lightweight jackets over short shorts. A very modern and mod loose-cut navy polka-dot chiffon shift is worn over cropped trousers.

DKNY is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. and is available at the Power Plant Mall, 158 Designers' Blvd., Alabang Town Center and Rustan's Makati.



Free hand sanitizer with lingerie purchase

HYGEIA is giving away a free 50 ml Personal Spray Hygienizer for every purchase of any two Hygeia products this month.

Hygeia underwear is odor- and stain-resistant, hygienic, hypoallergenic, dermatologically-tested yet stylish, fashionable and affordable.

The Hygienizer has quick drying antibacterial formula for sanitizing hands, doorknobs, toilet seats, workplace areas and other items of everyday use. It helps reduce risk of infection or illness by reducing germs on hands, objects, workplace and accessories.

The Hygeia underwear is made of fabric treated with an antimicrobial agent that has been safely and extensively used for over 35 years in both oral and skin-care products. This inhibits the spread of bacteria, which hinders odor and fungal growth on the garment. The antimicrobial fiber treatment remains active even after repeated laundering.

Hygeia is also over 40 percent more absorbent than ordinary underwear, keeping the skin cooler and drier. The fabric is hypoallergenic and designed to resist tough stains.

Hygeia is available in various cuts, designs and colors to suit every woman.

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Shoes for active lifestyles

GBX's latest footwear collection is out, featuring shoes that emphasize function and cutting-edge design.

For hanging out with friends, grooving to great tunes, or taking a stroll with a date, there's the Mexico, a pair of well-cushioned suede and leather casual sneakers that goes well with jeans or khakis.

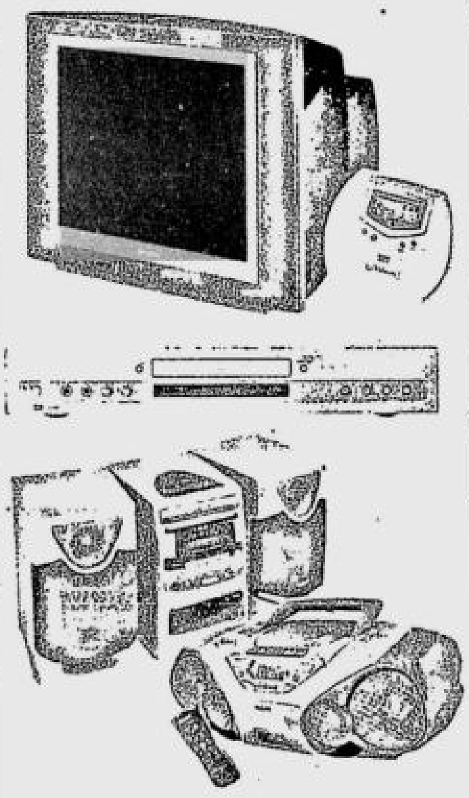
For more active lifestyles, the Defcon is the perfect pair—a line of durable sporty sneakers that comes in four funky colors and is made of GBX signature leather. A high-grade rubber tread sole assures excellent traction.

The GBX summer collection is available at SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Manila, SM Fairview, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, and selected athletic shoe stores nationwide.

"My mother's cousin's neighbor's sister is coming to visit."

Win a Philips Flat TV and more simply by texting in your best excuse to stay home!

Send in the funniest, wackiest, zaniest, most hilarious excuses to stay home. Your best excuse can get you amazing Philips products! That's another great excuse to stay home!



Here's how to join:

- Text your most creative excuse to stay at home to 0916-2701088 and 0920-8240470, along with your name, age and address. The contest is open to Metro Manila residents only.
- Entries should include the Philips tagline "Staying home has never been better with Philips Home Entertainment System"
- Every text message sent costs P1.00
- Send in as many entries as you can. For those who will win more than once, he will receive the bigger prize.
- Deadline for entries is June 15, 2003, midnight.
- Philips prizes:
  Daily winners: Philips Sporty bag
  Grand prize winner: Philips 21PT4320 53.34 cm. Real Flat TV
  2nd **prize:** Philips MC-55 Micro Hi-Fi audio system
  3rd **prize:** Philips DVD727 DVD Player
  4th **prize:** Philips AZ1110 RCR with CD Player
  5th **prize:** Philips AX5202 Portable CD Player
- There will be one winner everyday for the duration of the promo.
- Five top winners will be chosen from among the daily winners on June 17, 2003, at the Philips House, 106 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
- Criteria for judging are: Originality 35%, Wit or Creativity 35%, Humor 30%. Entries will be judged by executives from Philips Consumer Electronics, Carat Philippines, and Fuentes Publicity Network, under the supervision of a DTI representative.
- The winning entries will be featured in Philips advertising and press releases.
- Winners will be informed through text and registered mail. They can claim their prizes at Philips House, 106 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, upon presentation of a valid ID.
- Employees of Philips Consumer Electronics and their advertising, media, and PR agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the contest.
- Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days shall be forfeited in favor of Philips Consumer Electronic with prior consent from DTI.

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Philips Home Entertainment Systems will get you to make any excuse to stay at home, providing the most amazing audio and video experience right in your living room. Staying home has never been better!

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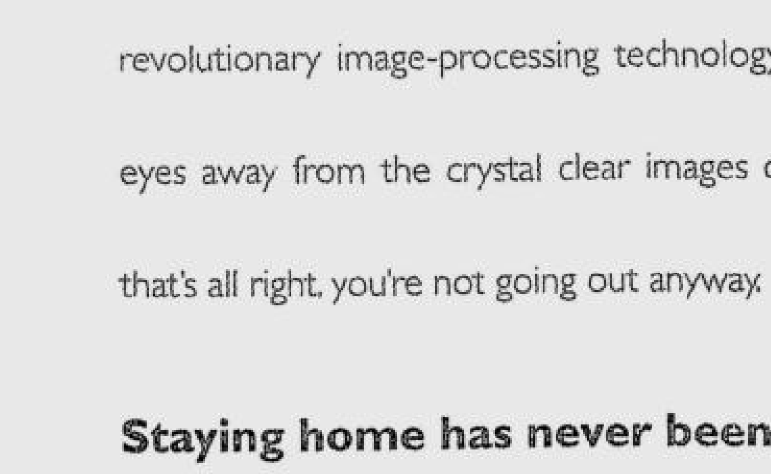
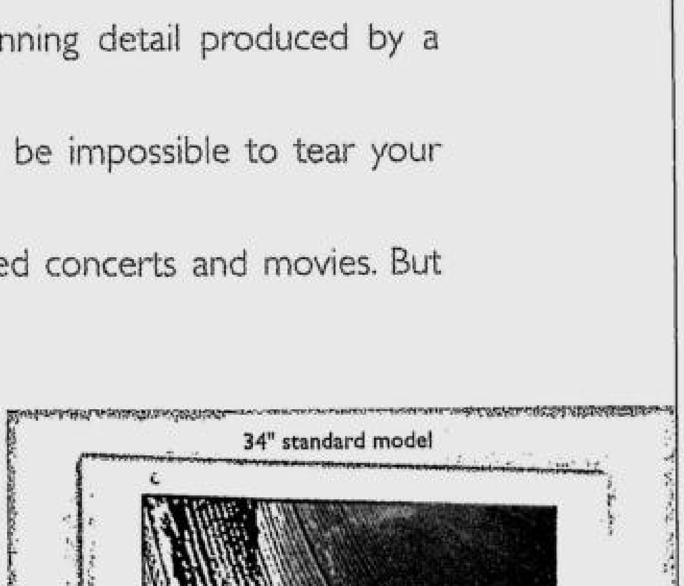
"I don't have anything to wear."

With 2 million pixels and more detail on the Philips Pixel Plus TV, you'll make up any excuse to stay home.

After all, you've got incredibly sharp pictures and stunning detail produced by a revolutionary image-processing technology. It's going to be impossible to tear your eyes away from the crystal clear images of your beloved concerts and movies. But that's all right, you're not going out anyway.

Staying home has never been better.





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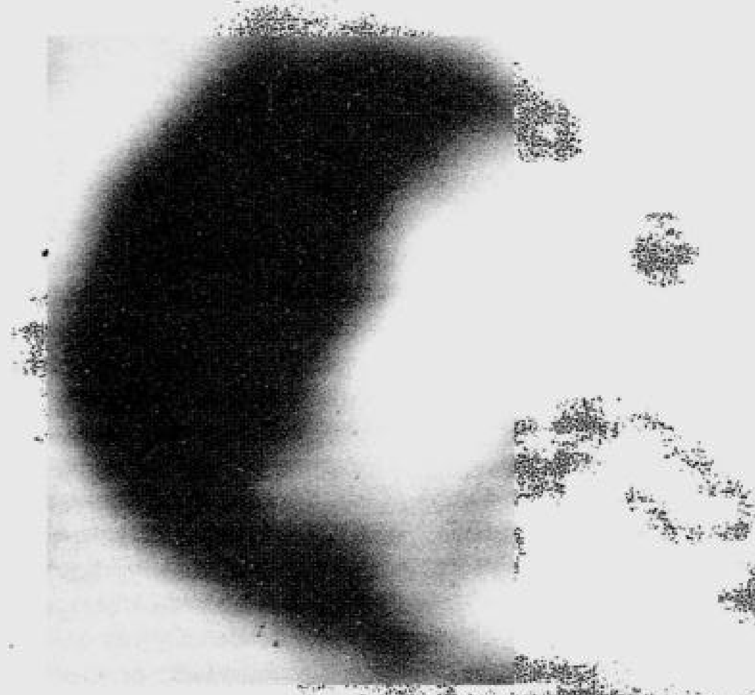

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NEO VOLITION	P34,499.00	P29,999.00	P4,500.00	1,100.00	2,200.00	4,500.00	5,000.00	5,600.00	6,700.00	9,000.00	9,500.00
NEO QNOTE	P60,999.00	P54,999.00	P6,000.00	1,100.00	2,200.00	4,500.00	5,000.00	7,100.00	8,200.00	10,500.00	11,000.00
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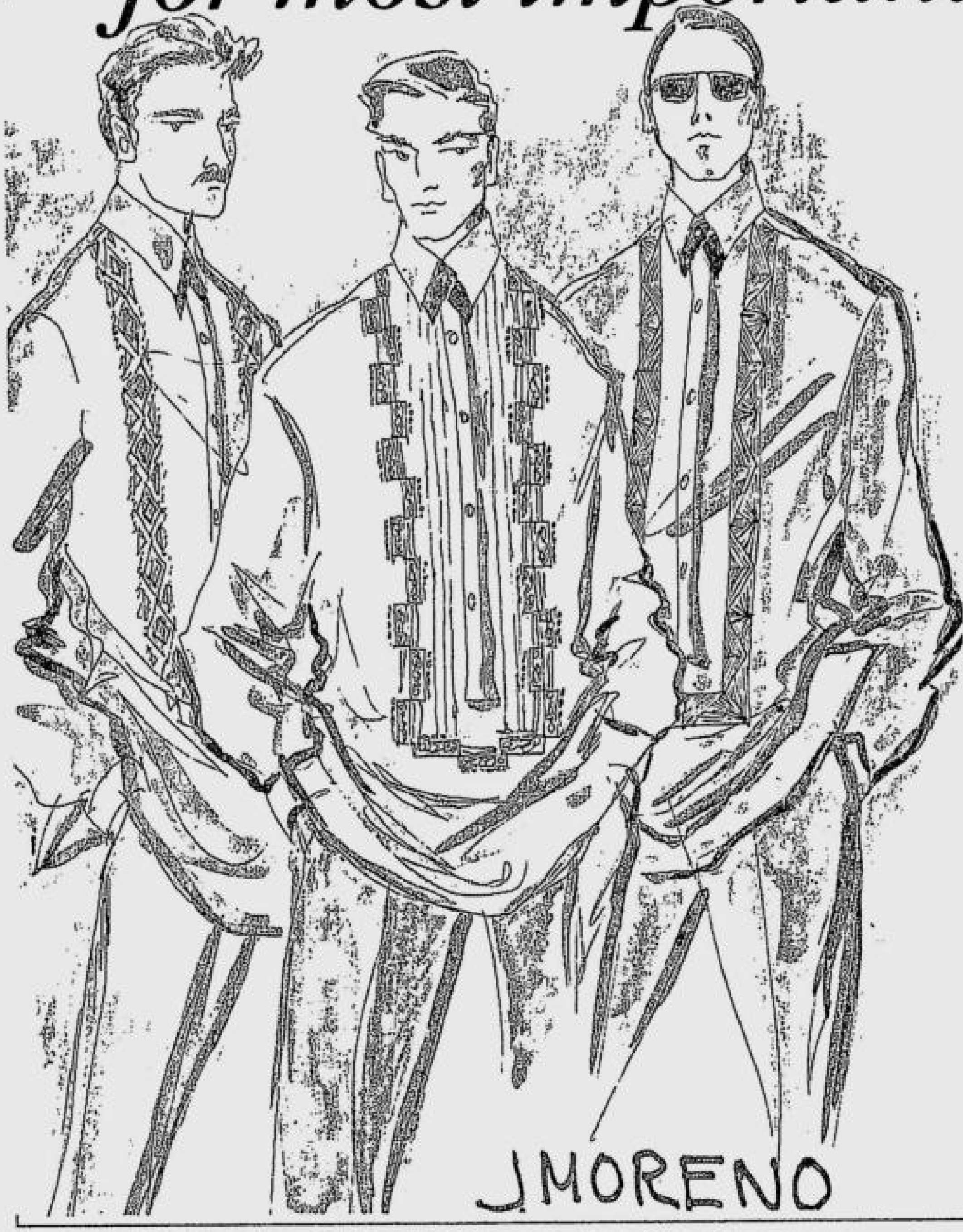
Dato dons a 'Cong Dadong' for most important day



PRESIDENTIAL son Diosdado Macapagal Arroyo is wearing a Pitoy Moreno barong for his wedding today.

Perhaps most poignantly, Dato, as the presidential son is more endearingly known, is using cufflinks and studs handed down by his illustrious grandfather and namesake, the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

Moreno had designed the barongs of the late President during the latter's incumbency.

Dato's brother, Mikey Arroyo, and uncles Arthur Macapagal and Diosdado Macapagal Jr., are likewise wearing barongs by Moreno.

The boyishly charming groom's exquisite barong is made of fine *piña* fiber with delicate hand embroidery on the edge of *pechera* and *plegecitos* or pin tucks.

The neckline is accented with a cravat with nakar studs set in gold, matching the cufflinks.

The best man, ushers and sponsors are wearing roughly the same version, with black tuxedo pants.

DATO AND KAKAI

Simply so happy *together*

Text by Tim Yap
Photos by Eddie Boy Escudero

WHILE show-biz weddings try to outdo one another in grandiosity, presidential weddings and sundry related celebrations seem to do the reverse, focusing instead on simplicity, utter simplicity.

The simplicity is quite stark as far as the current incumbency is concerned. Take the case of Kakai Manotok, fiancée of Dato Arroyo, the youngest of Madam President's children. Her *despedida de soltera*

SIMPLY/F2

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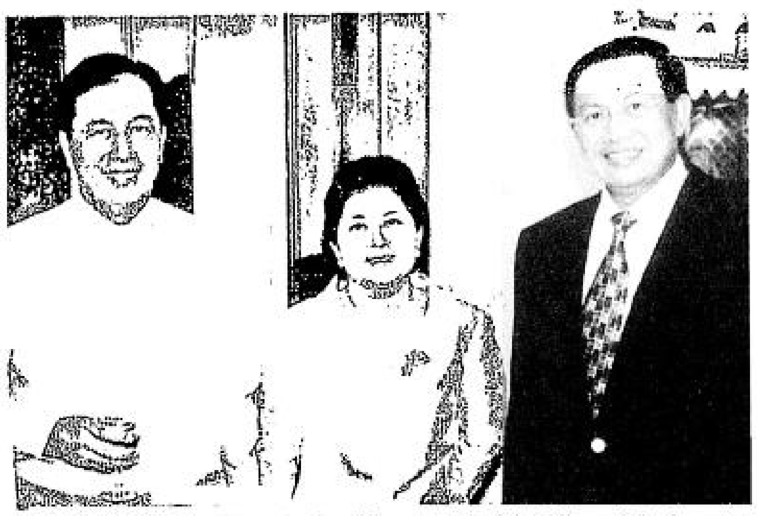

FAMILY AND FRIENDS. Arthur Macapagal with Sally and Arthur Villaraza

KAKAI, in a Joe Salazar, and Dato with Manay Gina and Joe de Venecia

FAMILY TREE. Felipe, Tessie, Maritess and Henry Gozon

Simply so happy *together*

Kakai Manotok's 'despedida de soltera' underscores the exquisite simplicity of presidential weddings under the low-key but hardworking incumbency of GMA

FAMILY PHOTO. Kakai and Dato with GMA, Luli and Mikey (behind)

SIBLING REVELRY. Carlo, Cricket, Kakai and Luigi Manotok

From page F1

last Sunday drew 90 of the closest family and friends, including the principal sponsors and bridal entourage.

So expect the same simplicity to characterize today's much-awaited wedding at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, the second presidential wedding under Her Excellency.

During the *despedida* at the Manotok residence in Ayala Southville, Kakai wore a Joe Salazar creation of fuchsia and yellow orange.

"I can't remember anything—it's all a blur," said Kakai later. "But I'm very excited. Not nervous at all. We've been preparing for over a year now, and I'm confident to see the work that's been put into it."

Her voice seemed tired, but this girl is a trouper. She's very low key, staying in the sidelines, away from the cameras and crowds. As a banker handling capital markets at HSBC, she is supposed to be focused, organized and articulate.

That night, Bogie and Cynthia Manotok welcomed guests, some of whom had flown all the way from the United States.

"I appreciate it, especially because I know that everyone is very busy, from our *ninongs* and *ninangs* and friends, but they were able to make it here to join us," said Kakai later, as she hugged and cuddled Dato while society lensman Eddie Boy Escudero took snapshots of them.

At the reception, Robert Blancaflor had set up a giant white tent, which he draped with flowing white fabric. Lights and candles illuminated the Manotok garden. Yellow and fuchsia flowers enhanced the romantic ambience.

Kakai's mom, Cynthia, was in a mint-green Rajo Laurel gown, while GMA was in a red gown with a fuchsia shawl.

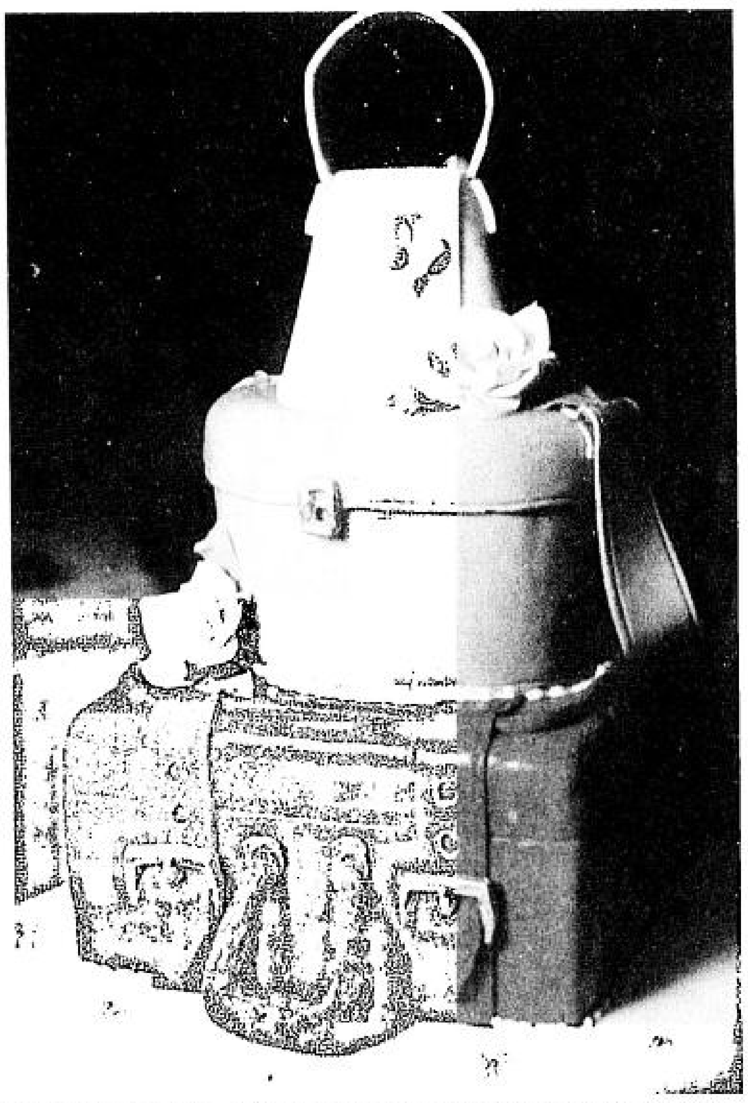
El Comedor catered the food while Penk Ching of Pastry Bin prepared a scene-stealing fondant cake with adorable designs of bags piled on top of one another.

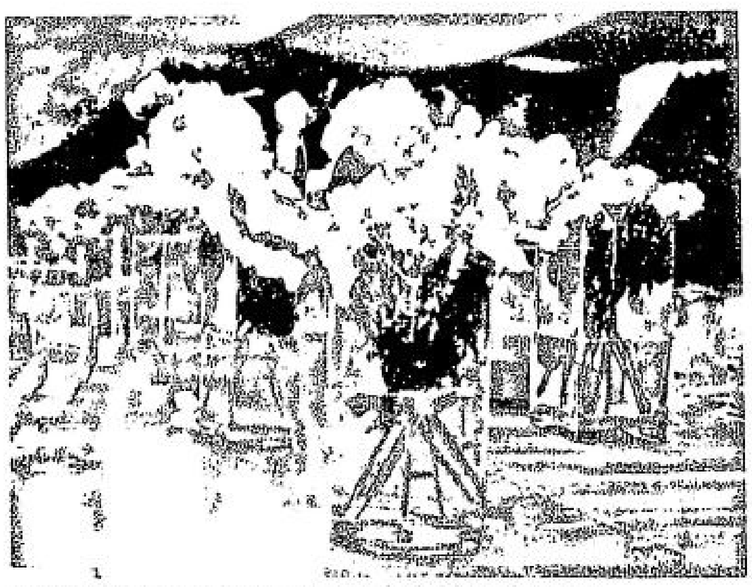
The bags' simple message complemented the simplicity that had been the hallmark of presidential weddings under GMA. They symbolized the beautiful memories that would be packed the minute Dato and Kakai embark on a new and beautiful journey as husband and wife.

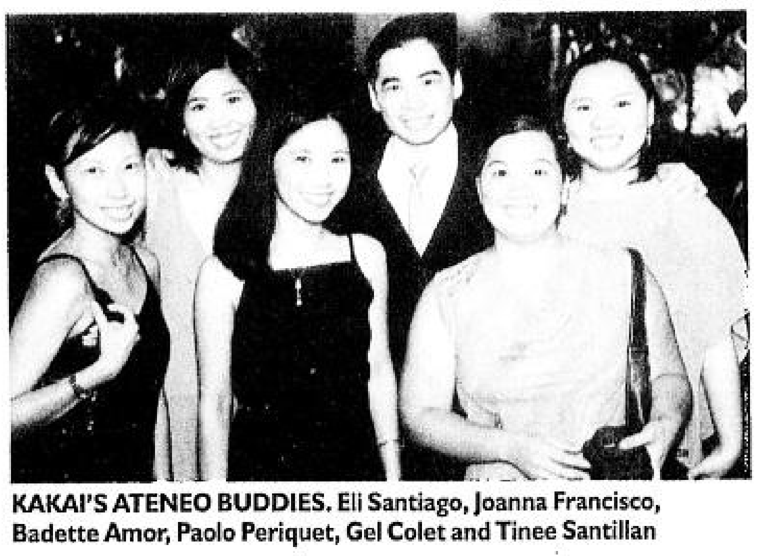
MEET THE PARENTS. Cynthia Manotok in a Rajo Laurel with husband Bogie Manotok

BABY BONDING. With presidential *apo* Mikaela Gloria, daughter of Mikey and Angela

BEST WISHES. Jeff and Tina Navarro

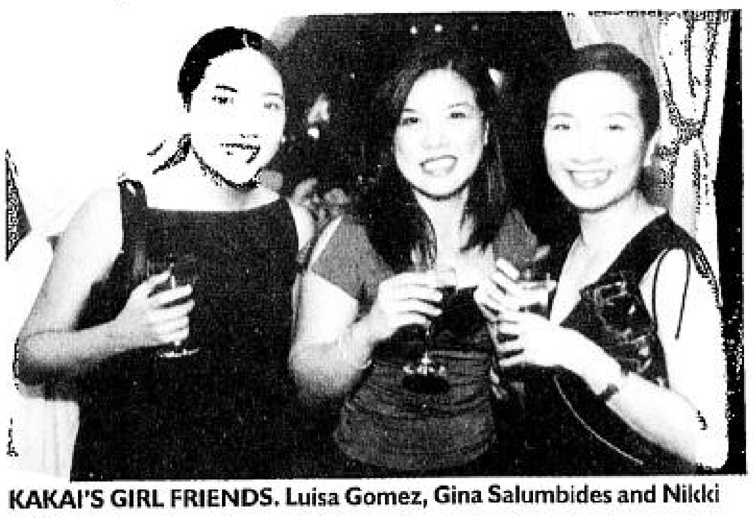

BYE-BYE BAGS. Penk Ching of Pastry Bin made this fondant creation for the *despedida de soltera*.


FLOWERS abloom for the soon-to-be bride and groom.


KAKAI'S ATENEO BUDDIES. Eli Santiago, Joanna Francisco, Badette Amor, Paolo Periquet, Gel Colet and Tinee Santillan

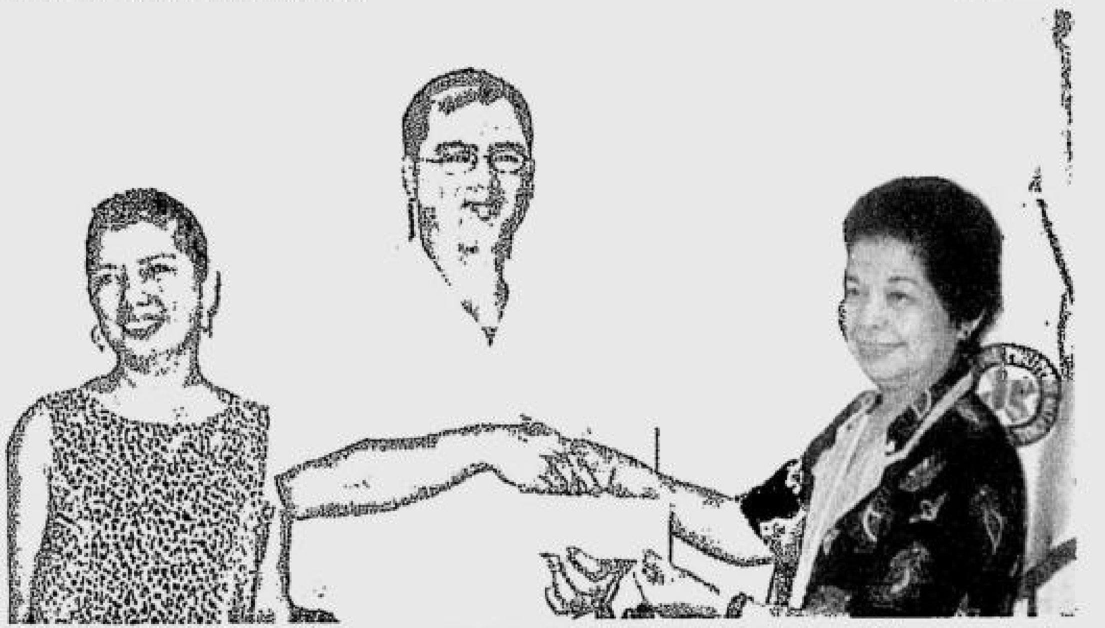
WITH GAL PALS. Tracy Garcia, Carmina Cruz and Maritess Gozon

MEN OF HONOR. Dato and his court


KAKAI'S GIRL FRIENDS. Luisa Gomez, Gina Salumbides and Nikki Reyes

Hallmark
hen you c… to send the ver

FILSTAR Distributors Corporation Inc., exclusive distributor of Hallmark Cards in the Philippines, announced the winners of its Send It Forward promo. They are: first prize, Mitzi Caballero Tico of Lapu-lapu City; second prize, Eduardo Guinto of Parañaque; and third prize, Elena Baliwag. Present during the raffle draw were: (from left) Filstar ad and promo group head Christine Ko, DTI representative Myra Raspo, Filstar senior brand manager Mari Hautea, AVP for sales John Aroa, senior artist Mamert Ynigo and communications assistant Hassie Jose.



HIP fashion store, located at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, recently donated the proceeds of Hip fashion fair to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC). In photo during the turnover of cash donation are (from left) Tess Usapdin, PNRC director; Gary Ramirez of HIP Leasing Corporation; and Lourdes Loyola, secretary general of PNRC.

Showcase of Tagaytay's products

GOINGS ON

"COLORS and Flavors in Tagaytay" bazaar features potted plants grown by former First Lady Amelita Ramos, fresh cutflowers and herbs from Ging delos Reyes' The Flower Farm, bee products from Ilog Maria, home and garden accessories from Touch and Craft, beautiful fabrics by Ernest Santiago, jackets and pillows by Georgie Balliet, planting supplies from Francisco Soriano, culinary delights from Gourmet Café and Italian gelato and pasta by Massimo. The bazaar, located at Ming's Farm along Sta. Rosa Road, is open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. on May 17,18, 24 and 25 for an entrance fee of P20 per person.

FLORAL DEMO. Noted stylist Rachy Cuna will conduct a floral demonstration today, 3 p.m. at the 4th level of Rustan's Makati. The floral creations will be on sale and exhibited in the store for a limited duration. The demonstration is open to all Rustan's shoppers.

BENEFIT CONCERT. The University of the Philippines High School Class of 1968 will present "Happy Together!" featuring the Spirit of '67 in a benefit concert for the University of the Philippines Integrated School (UPIS) on June 6, 7:30 p.m., at UP Bahay ng Alumni. Tickets are available for P500 at Chocolate Kiss Café, UP Bahay ng Alumni and Urban Spa, Shangri-La Mall. Call 687-4692.

TOURNAMENT. SM Megamall in Mandaluyong will host Beyblade Tournament of Champions on May 18, 1-6 p.m. at its Activity Center. Call 373-9600.

PARTY. Viva! Mineral Water holds its series of gigs dubbed "Viva!cious: The Shape and Sound of Summer" hang-out party. The events will be held today at Alabang Town Center; May 30, Eastwood City Walk; and June 13, The Village in Cebu. Call 413-6436 or 37.

CONVENTION. The College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) will hold its 63rd National Student Press Convention on May 25-29 at Teppeng Cove in Sinait, Ilocos Sur. It features workshops on journalism, art and literature and discussions on relevant socio-political issues, poetry reading, film showing and cultural performances. Call or text 0920-7265642 or 0916-4599743.

PHOTO COURSE. The Society of Portrait Photographers of the Philippines (SPPP) will start its basic photo course on May 24 at Product Development and Design Philippines at the CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. For pre-registration look for Marsha at Fujifilm Image Service Center, Studio Room, SM Megamall Basement, or Beth at Once Upon A Lifetime Digital Studio, Unit 1010, tel. 806-1346. On site registration at PDDCP Bldg., during workshop hours or call 0916-4693388, 0917-4118339, or 8217978.

PROMO. Grab a Jag and get a free bag at selected SM Super Malls until May 31. For a minimum single receipt purchase worth P300 of Jag Thug, you will receive a free drawstring bag from Jag Jeans. Jag stores are located at SM City, Megamall, Centerpoint, Bacoor, Harrison, Fairview, Southmall, YMCA, Bicutan, Cubao, Makati and San Fernando.

MUSIC FEST. The 1st Iloilo Summer Music Camp and Festival will be held on May 21-30, featuring the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music. Call 337-9159, 336-3912 or 320-1578.

EXHIBIT. Hotelex 2003 trade exhibit is slated at World Trade Center on May 29-31. The exhibit will feature latest state-of-the-art equipment, supplies, services and food and beverage products for the hotel, restaurant, catering and baking businesses.

IVEE Olivares-Mellor, a Filipino painter based in the United Kingdom, will open her first solo exhibit at Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati on May 17, 4:30 p.m. The show on landscapes will run until June 4.

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Robinsons Galleria	May 6-18
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Boracay	May 10-18

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Alabang Town Center	May 1 - 18
Robinsons Malate	May 1 - 18
Podium	May 1 - 18
Festival Mall	May 5 - 18
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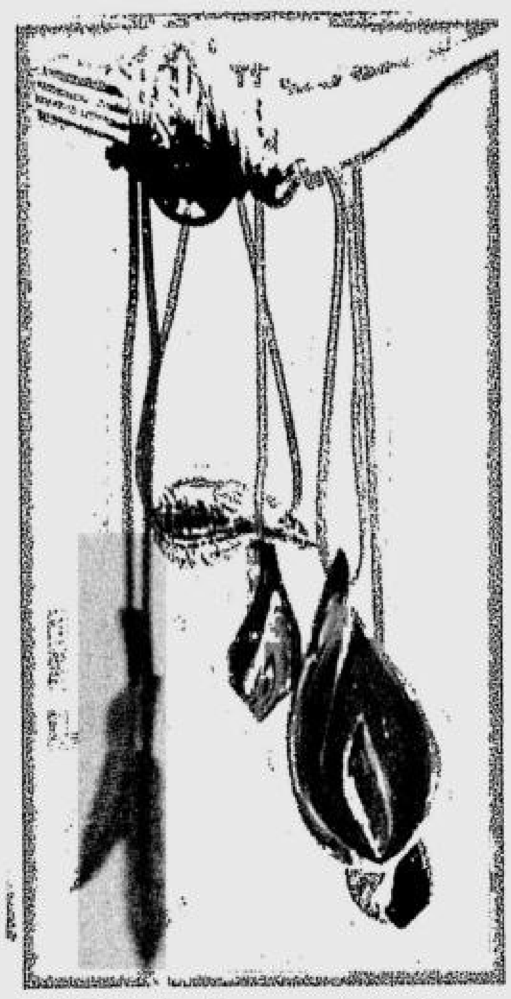


MELON, shell and leaves pendants with neoprene cords

Fine silver lining

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

YOU DON'T need to be born with the proverbial silver spoon in your mouth to look it. That is practically how the owner of a five-year-old jewelry store describes the patrons of her exquisite line of sterling silver jewelry.

MICHELIS owner Mia Syquia Faustmann

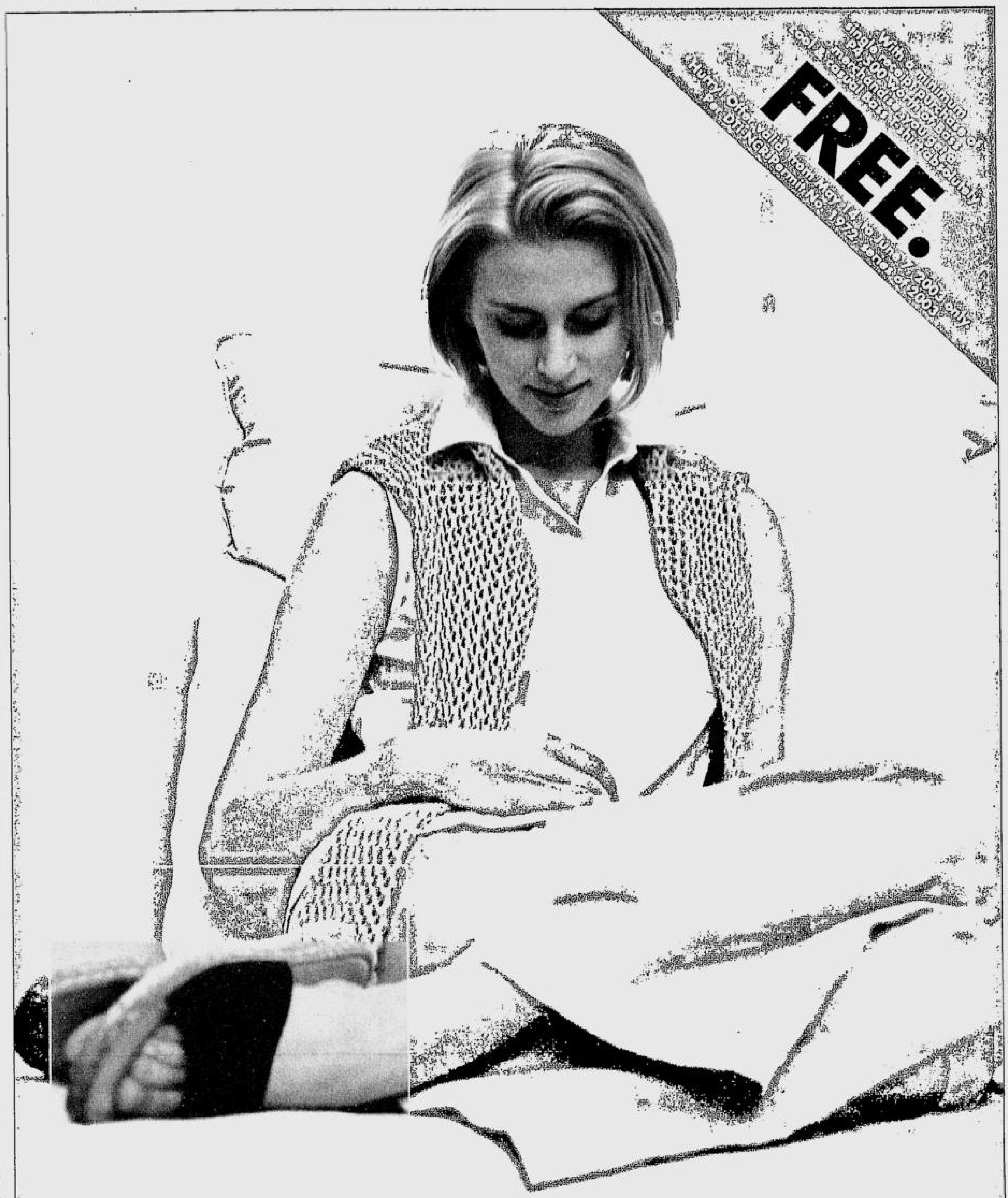
PHOTO: JESS YUSON

While silver has always been seen as second best, always tailing gold feebly behind, Mia Syquia Faustmann is out to show that this precious metal is incontestably first-rate when it comes to fashionable jewelry.

Sterling silver has long been the accessory of choice abroad, but it has lagged behind in the Philippines, sidelined by two extremes: expensive gold and cheap base metal costume jewelry.

A longtime exporter of sterling silver jewel-

FINE/ G2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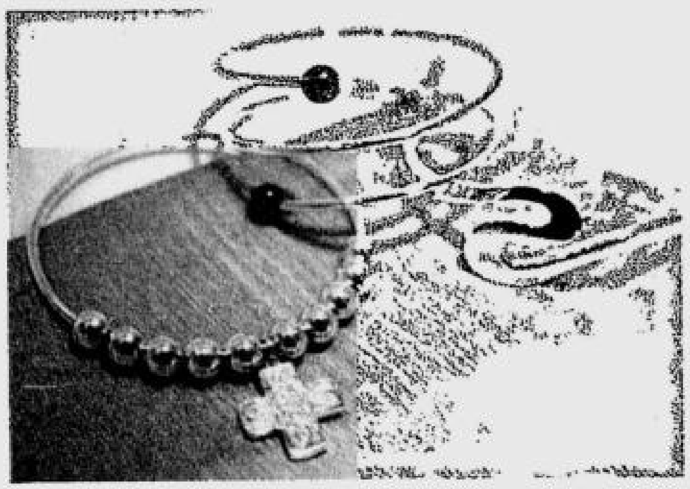
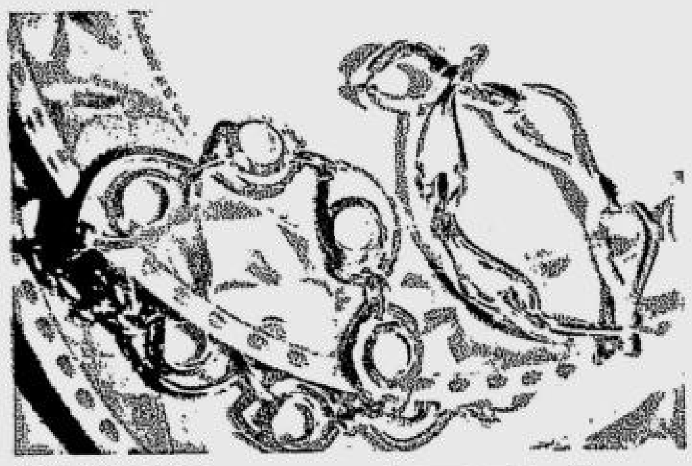


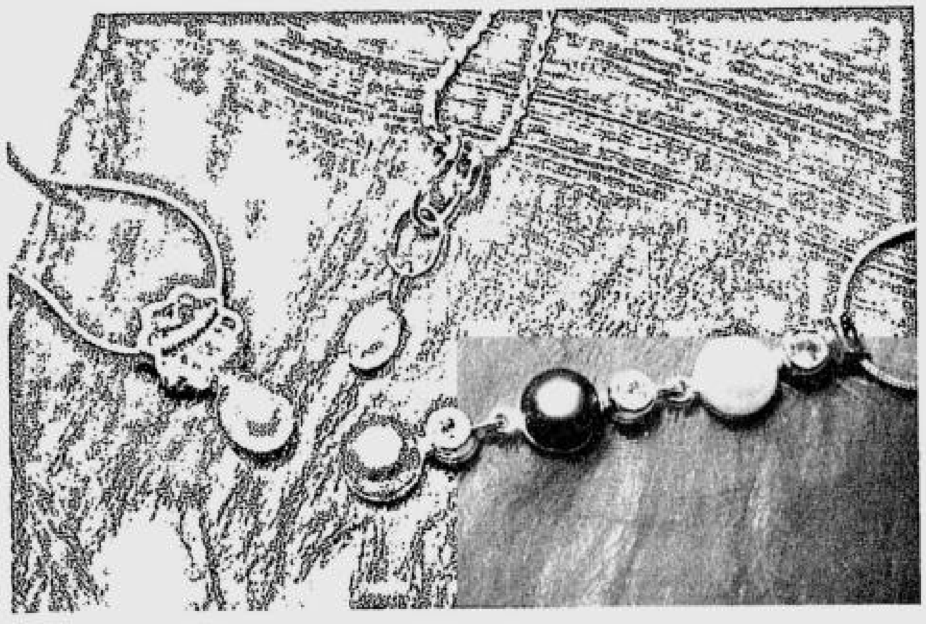
DECADA bangle, Spiral bangle with blue agate and Wave bangle



EYELINE necklace and eyelet bracelet

STERLING silver bamboo pendant with briolet suspended on neoprene cord

Exquisite sterling silver jewelry is Michelis' best-kept secret



FOUR-LEAF pendant with pearl, twisted chain with pearl pendant and tri-pearl pendant with cubic zirconia in white, black and peach

Fine silver lining

From page G1

ry and gift items, Faustmann, with husband Juan Luis and daughter Sanya, had primarily wanted to share her expertise and introduce global trends to the local jewelry market when she opened the first Michelis branch in 1998 at Greenbelt, Makati.

"I wanted to bring the DBF (*de buena familia*) look further down," she laughingly says, "and make good jewelry available to more people."

Because of import barriers, she adds, consumers didn't have much choice before. "My goal was to reach a wider market."

With the low cost of raw material, sterling silver seemed the most natural choice.

Fashion, not investment

To the man, or woman, on the street, Faustmann says gold is popular because they see it as something they can pawn. So she is quick to say Michelis' sterling silver jewelry is, unlike gold, not an investment item.

"We are fashion-driven," she says. But unlike costume trinkets, "you have confidence that silver has an intrinsic value. You're not just throwing your money away. And you're not throwing a fortune on something that's only in this year." A client can come back the following month and find something to complement her previous purchase.

Michelis' look is very modern, she says, and caters to every age. It is in tune with trends abroad.

As part of her mission to "educate" relatively conservative local buyers, this third-generation jeweler is initially introducing "color" through simple styles.

Faustmann, who edits, styles and product-tests her store's designs, says, "Jewelry here is characterized by white pearls and diamonds all the time... very '*lola*.' We want people to realize that color works in jewelry, too."

Thus, Michelis is fusing multicolored semi-precious stones such as onyx, rhodolite, agate, citrine, peridot, topaz, amethyst in its necklaces, bracelets, and earrings.

"There's a conservative streak in everybody, so we want people to get used to the idea of color first," Fasutmann says.

By year's end, Michelis will come out with what she calls "more interesting stuff." In July, for instance, Michelis will launch a new line that marries mother of pearl and sterling silver—the in thing in Europe.

Michelis uses colored bust forms in its display windows to suggest how silver jewelry will look against clothes and dark, olive-colored skin.

Branded image

Unlike other local silver jewelry names, Michelis is pushing for a branded image. Which explains the upscale locations of its four other branches: at Rustan's Shangri-La and Alabang, Power Plant Mall, and at two five-star hotels, the Mandarin Oriental and the Manila Peninsula.

"The mall crowd doesn't like the untested," she explains. "We get more attention in these places because the patrons are those who travel. They understand the value and elegance of sterling silver."

They wanted a name that had an international ring to it "so we chose to name Michelis after my grandmother, who's half-French," she adds.

To an untrained eye, sterling silver can pass off as the costlier white gold. Faustmann explains the former is actually shinier, and it is just as anti-allergenic and anti-bacterial. "Maybe that's why we're too well kept a secret [among the elite], because they don't want to tell their friends [that what they're wearing is silver]," she laughingly says.

She adds silver is the rage overseas that some jewelers are beginning to put diamond in silver jewelry. Some stones, she adds, actually look better against sterling silver.

Contrary to its high-end image, Michelis is very affordable, Faustmann says. A fine piece can be had at less than P1,000. Its more elaborate pieces can fetch up to P80,000.

While Michelis is revamping its men's line to include more of its favored bracelets, it is also beefing up its baby gift items.

"We actually benefited from the economic crisis," Faustmann says with a smile. "No matter how hard the times, people will still give gifts, so they will go for what's cheaper."

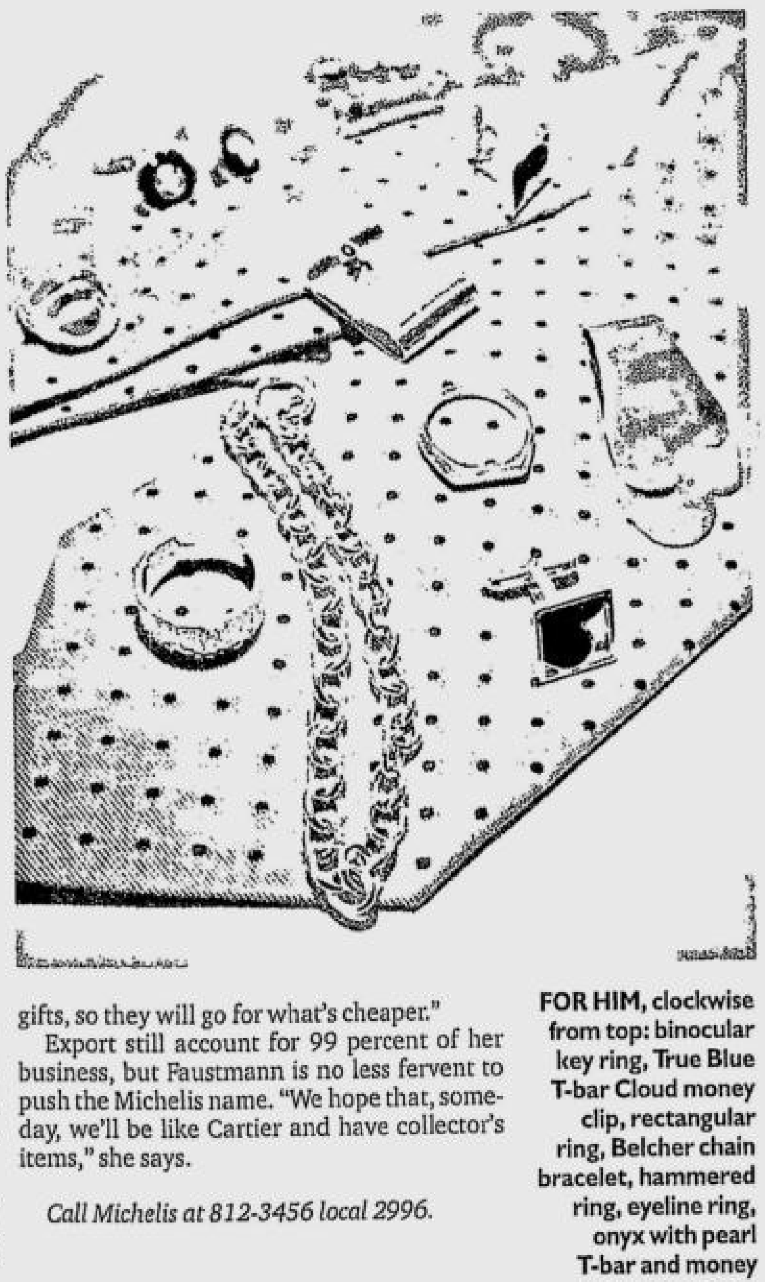
Export still account for 99 percent of her business, but Faustmann is no less fervent to push the Michelis name. "We hope that, someday, we'll be like Cartier and have collector's items," she says.

Call Michelis at 812-3456 local 2996.

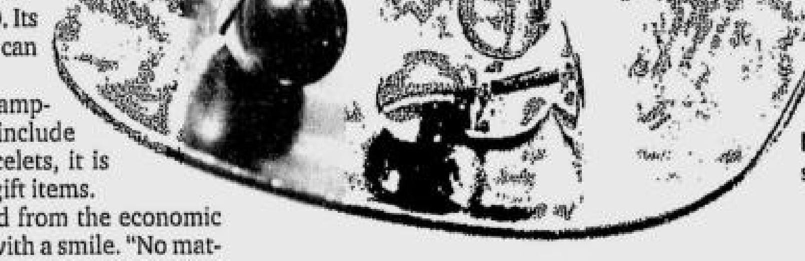
10-MM yellow jade and peach agate with cubic zirconia earrings and neoprene cord necklace

CHAIN necklace with double-heart pendant with red resin and Love Will Bridge the Gap ¾ hoop earrings with resin heart

FLAT chain lariat necklaces with (from left) blue agate, blue adventurine and sodalite with cubic zirconia; tri-pearl with cubic zirconia; doughnut pendant with multicolored stones; and silver-trimmed photo frame



FOR HIM, clockwise from top: binocular key ring, True Blue T-bar Cloud money clip, rectangular ring, Belcher chain bracelet, hammered ring, eyeline ring, onyx with pearl T-bar and money clip with X



MALACHITE studs and barbell

Art fest features international musicians

GRACE Nono performs in "Full Moon Nights at the Loop" tonight at 6:30 at Mag:net Gallery, ABS-CBN compound in Quezon City. Dubbed "The Dungan Project-Inter-Tribal, Cross-Cultural Dialogue through Music and Performance," the event features Shin-ichi Arai and Masashi Kitao (Japan), Helge Meyer and Marco Teubner (Germany), Tony Twigg and Gina Marie Farley (Australia), Thanom Chapakdee, Padungsak Kochsomoong, Mongkol Plienbanchang, Parsan Plienbanchang and Nopawan Serevejkul (Thailand), Yuan Mor'o Ocampo, Gary Chong, Tesa Comes, Art2Tan/Tan2Art (Philippines).

Activities start at 3 p.m. and will include Artists' Talk, Performance Art Video Presentations, Live Performance and Art Exchange (Dialogue).

German artists Marco Teubner and Helge Meyer, also known as HM2T, will present a 24-hour performance called "The Long Journey of Rice."

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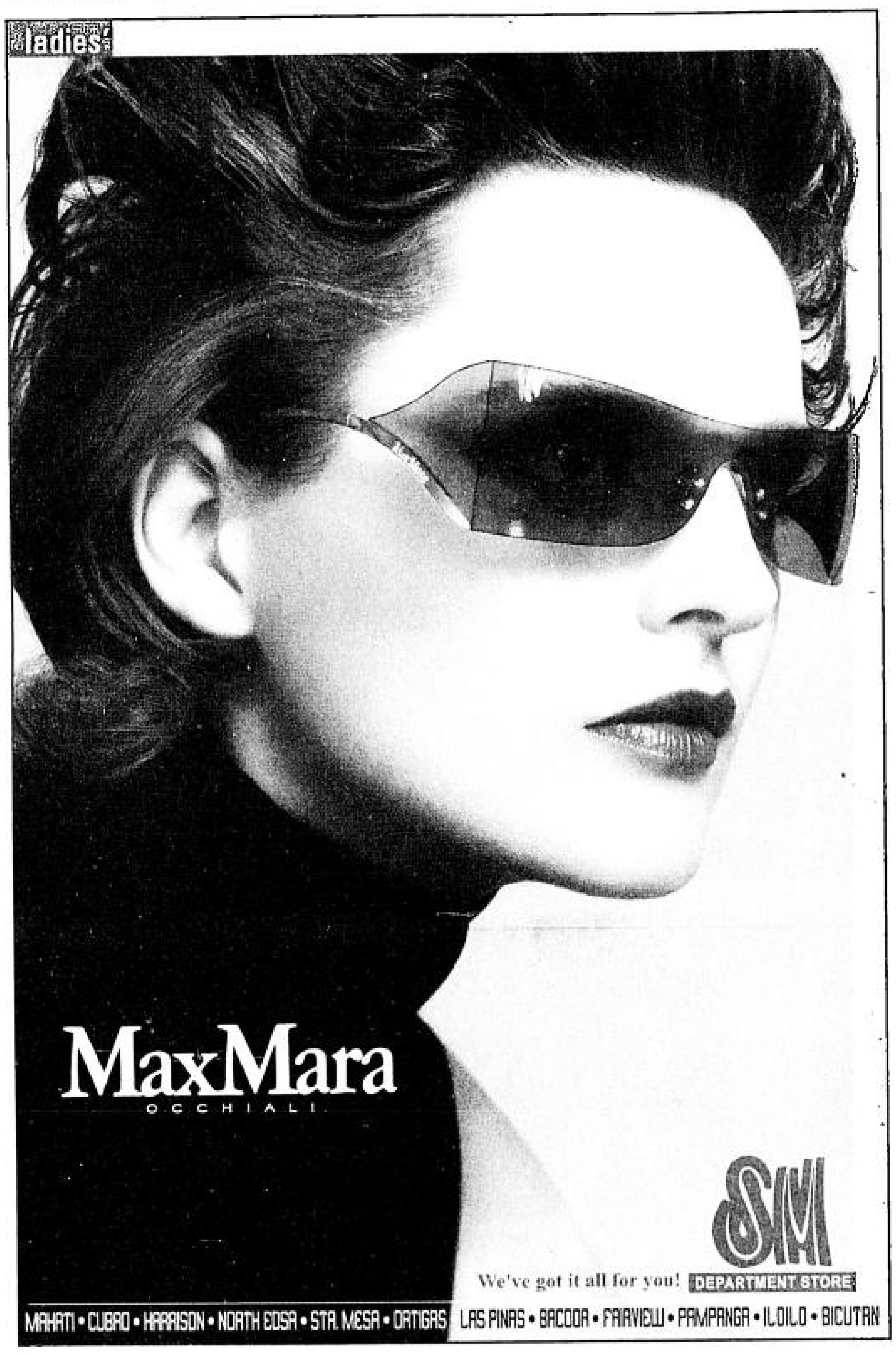
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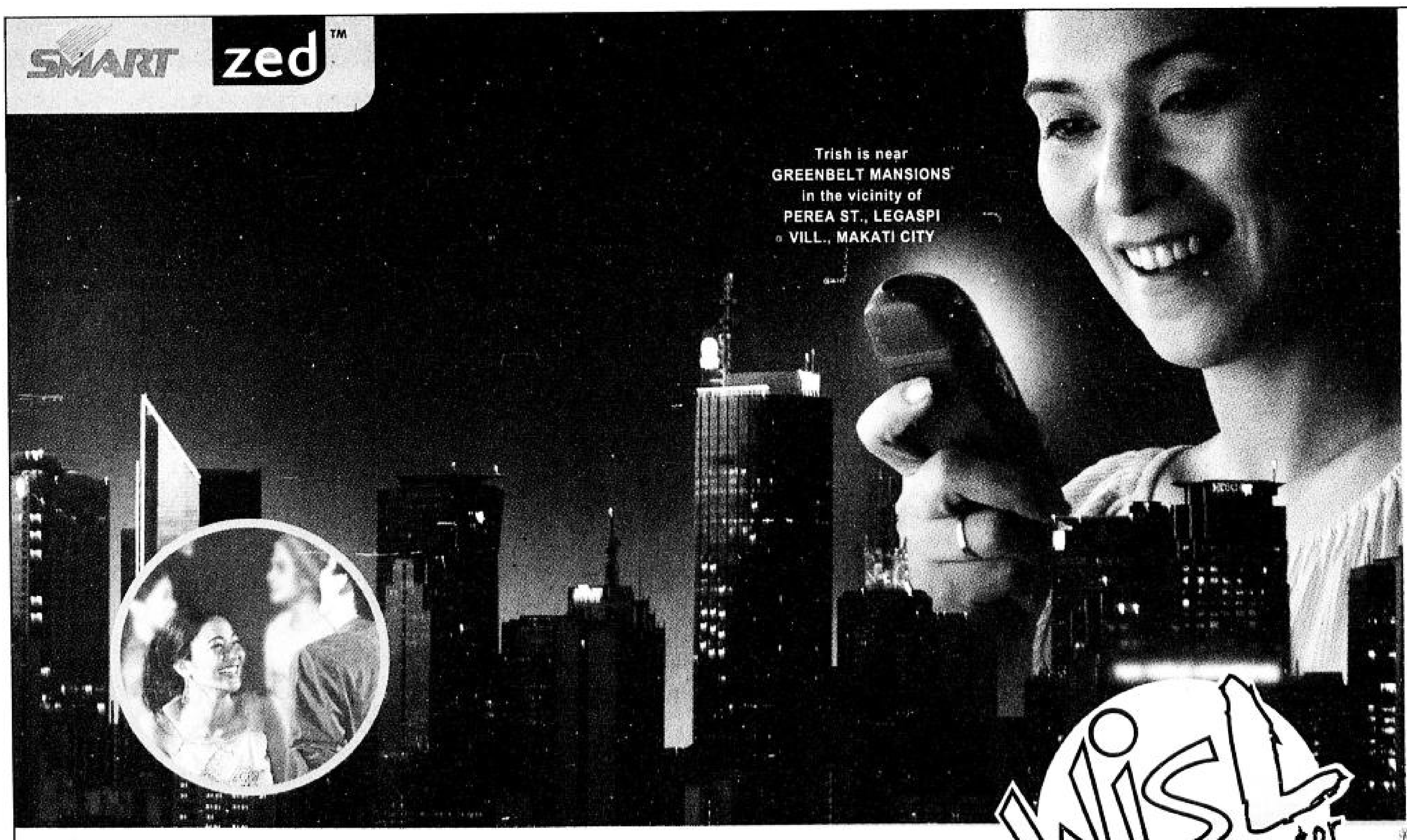
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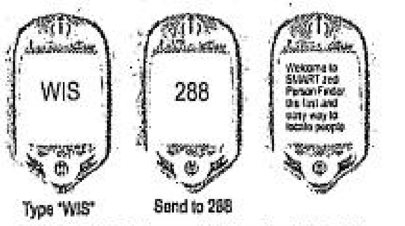
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0837 Series of 2003

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Kinny Salas

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While everyone was getting tanned, my face seemed to glow like a luminous beacon. Even without foundation, the skin on my face was even-toned and people commented on how radiant I looked.

I attributed this to four brands that cleaned my blemishes and lightened my overall complexion. Please note that my skin color only dropped to the next lighter foundation shade (i.e. from Bobbi Brown "lighter than" beige to perfect sand or L'Oreal's foundation stick natural beige to nude beige) and not the lightest tone. There is a limit to how light your skin can get without intense peeling and bleaching.

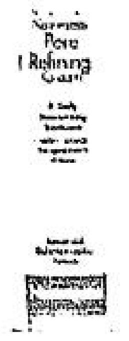
I would like to caution that the products that follow are not for sensitive skin.

Neutrogena Pore Refining Line, P2,000/set more or less: cleanser, toner, essence and mattifier (daytime only). Suitable for most skin types except dry and sensitive. I have been using this line the longest and it has saved me from summer slick to PMS (premenstrual syndrome) frenzy. I can always count on it to give me perfect skin.

The cleanser, toner and essence contain AHA and BHA to dissolve the "adhesive" holding pore-clogging debris together and dig deep down to vacuum and clear the pores of impurities that burrow in them. Secret weapon: essence contains retinol that stimulates collagen production and increases skin

SMALLER/ H4

Even during the hottest months, you can have lighter and more radiant skin



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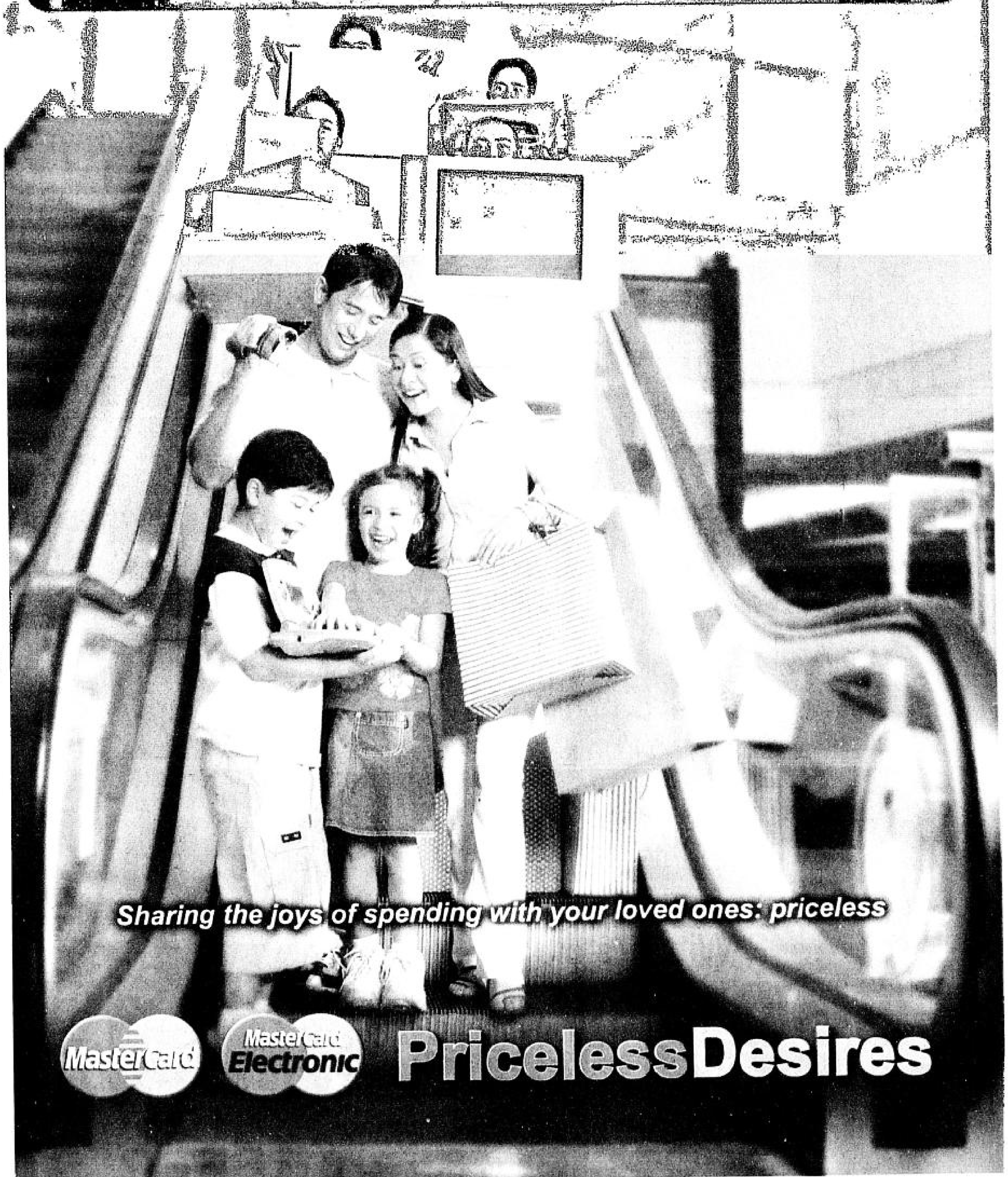
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Free Nokia 6610 to be given away to Daily Lucky Callers from May 16 - June 15, 2003.

Promo is from May 16 to August 15, 2003. See poster for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1161, Series of 2003

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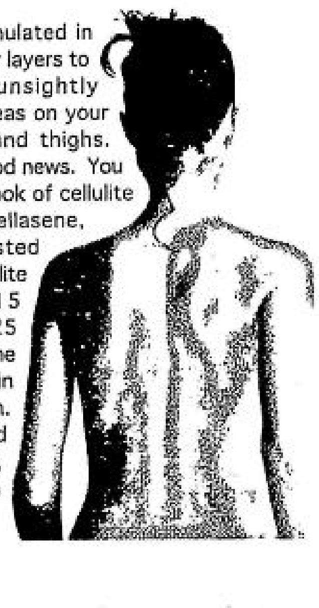
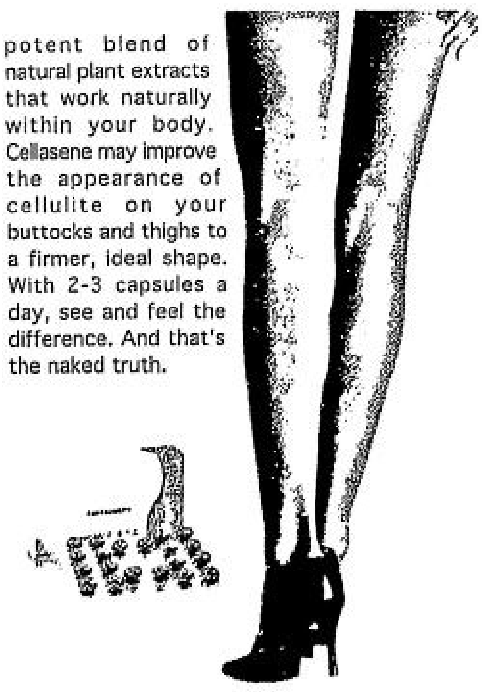


The naked truth!



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MASTER Sardines • Natural Oil 155 g.	P9.00 ea.	9.50
NESTLÉ Premium Milk • Chocolate 1 Liter	P63.00 ea.	69.00
CENTURY Tuna Flakes • Hot & Spicy • In Vegetable Oil 180 g/3's	P61.50 /pk.	
UFC Golden Fiesta Palm Oil PET 950 mL.	P45.75 ea.	
CDO Meat Loaf 100 g/4's	P29.00 /pk.	30.00
MARCA PIÑA Soy Sauce 1 Liter	P20.15 ea.	21.30
PUREFOODS Carne Norte 175 g	P21.00 ea.	21.25
KNORR Tamarind Soup Base Mix 40 g.	P11.50 ea.	
QUICKCHOW Instant Pancit Canton • Toyo-mansi • Beefy 65 g	P4.25 ea.	
McCORMICK Seasoning Mix • Oriental Beef Stew, 37 g. • Spicy Spareribs, 32 g.	P19.50 ea.	20.75
PISTA Instant Pancit Ulam • Adobong Pusit • Bistek • Spicy Chicken BBQ 60 g	P4.80 ea.	5.00
MONTEREY Ground Beef	P95.00 /kg.	125.00
MONTEREY Beef Brisket	P145.00 /kg.	162.00
MONTEREY Pork Kasim • Skin-On	P110.00 /kg.	127.00
BIG MAMA Pork Pigue • Skin-On	P110.00 /kg.	117.00
BIG MAMA Pork Butterfly Cut	P135.00 /kg.	142.00
Gindara	P156.00 /kg.	
Mango Green/ Yellow	P35.00 /kg.	
MAGGI Instant Spaghetti • With hotdog bits 90 g/2's	P25.00 /pk.	
PROMIL KID Growing Up Milk 900 g	P384.50 /pk.	399.95
DEL MONTE Spaghetti 1 kg	P44.80 ea.	
ENSURE Powdered Milk • Vanilla 1 kg.	P962.50	1,052 50
MAGGI Cup Sarap • Chicken Arroz caldo 23 g/3's	P22.50 /pk.	
DUMEX 3+ Growing Up Milk • With honey 800 g.	P291.75	299 50
LUDY'S Good Oats Instant Oatmeal • Choco, 45 g • Plain, 40 g 3's	P22.25 /pk.	23.50
MY SAN Grahams 25 g/10's	P22.75 /pk.	23 50
EQUAL Natural Sweetener Sachet 50's	P116.25 /pk.	131.25
PRESTO Creams Sandwich Cookies • Choco • Peanut Butter • Vanilla [illegible]	P23.50 /pk.	24.75

FRESH PICK IDEA

Del Monte Quality® SUMM

Ingredients:

1 can	(850 g.) DEL MONTE Fiesta Fruit Cocktail with Lychee Flavor, drained (reserve syrup)
1/4 kg.	ripe mango, flesh cut into cubes
1/4 kg.	singkamas, flesh cut into cubes
2 pcs.	banana lacatan, peeled and sliced
1 pack	(125 mL.) DEL MONTE Fruit Salad Cream
1/4 cup	condensed milk

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Sayote
TLC PRICE
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P18.00 /kg.

SM BONUS
China Apples #100
6's
TLC PRICE
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R FRUIT DREAM

Procedure:

Soak mangoes, singkamas and bananas in fruit cocktail syrup for 10 to 15 minutes. Drain. Combine with the rest of ingredients. Chill.

Makes 12 servings

Banana Lacatan
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P22.00 /kg.

Singkamas
TLC PRICE
P10.00 /kg.

SM BONUS
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6's
TLC PRICE
P87.00 /pk.

HAPEE
Toothpaste
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100 mL.
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- Blue
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Ultra Detergent Powder
- Nature Fresh
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Tricks Styling Gel
- On Selected Variants
125 g.
TLC PRICE
P47.75 ea.
Reg. Price 49.75

TENDERLY
Fabric Enhancer
- Morning Dew
- Powder Fresh
275 ml
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COPPERTONE
Sunblock Protection
- Water Babies
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118 mL (4 oz)
TLC PRICE
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Reg. Price 324.75

KOALA
Mothballs
200 g
TLC PRICE
P24.00 /pk.
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LA PACITA
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Gummi Candy
- Neon Squiggle
- Classic Bear
- Brite Crawler
142 g
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Reg. Price 36.50

HENO DE PRAVIA
Beauty Soap
160 g
TLC PRICE
P29.75 ea.
Reg. Price 34.75

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TLC PRICE
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- Chili Onion
- Natural Sweet
- Zesty Seaweed
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Reg. Price 17.75

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Powdered Juice Drink
- Orange
Refill, 1 kg.
TLC PRICE
P69.25 /pk.

REXONA
Deo Stick
- On Selected Variants
40 g
TLC PRICE
P90.00 ea.
Reg. Price 99.75

SCOTCH BRITE
Dishwashing Scrub Pad
3's
TLC PRICE
P56.25 /pk.

JACK N' JILL
Piattos
- Cheese
35 g
TLC PRICE
P16.75 ea.

GATORADE
Power Drink
- On Selected Flavors
400 mL.
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- Lemon
- Rainshower
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Cat Food
- Tuna & Anchovy
- Ocean Fish
3 kg
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P299.75 /pk.
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- With Peanut, 48 g
- Crispy, 42.5 g.
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Smaller pores mean whiter skin tone

There is a limit to how light your skin can get without intense peeling and bleaching

From page H1

firmness enabling the stretched pores to regain their original form.

The latest addition to the line, the mattifier, hydrates skin by trapping the water in while keeping the grease out. This is a great foundation primer for most skin types. Nothing in the product will dry the skin so you can use it for your skincare all year round.

Phytomer Purifying Collection. Made from the highest quality marine products, the Purifying line is strictly for normal to oily and acne-prone skin. Drier skin tones will experience tightening. Although it is the most expensive line of all, they have several super products that scare away the toughest zit.

The Purifying Cleansing Gel, P795, not only removes oil and impurities but most (not waterproof ones) makeup as well. The skin feels clean and fresh while shine is removed without drying oily skin. It cleans and tones skin in my opinion.

I then follow this product with the Comedogel, P895, which I apply only on affected areas. It unclogs the pores overnight. I use this product day and night then follow it up with the Purifying Emulsion P1,100, a mattifying moisturizer for day, and the Acnigel (skin treatment) before sleeping, which also serves as the night moisturizer. Secret weapon: Corrigel, P895, one of the products in the collection, is a spot treatment that gets rid of zits in one to three days max! It eliminates redness first. The pimple swells then deflates to flat. The zits disappear without leaving any marks. The most hard-to-remove zit will show its "eye" the next day then shrivel up in the shortest time leaving no trace. I kid you not. This is a sound investment and I use this in conjunction with other products.

L'Oreal Skin Refiner Line, about P1,500/set. The most reasonably priced of all the imported brands, not to mention the best smelling of the lot, I would definitely recommend it for normal to oily and acne prone skin. It is not recommended for mature skin as it may be too drying. Comes in cleansing wash, astringent, essence and moisturizer. The product, which lists only salicylic acid as its active ingredient, brings blackheads and whiteheads to the surface almost immediately after use, giving them no time to turn into zits. Secret weapons: essence shows the fastest results, shrinking pores almost as soon as it is applied; the moisturizer that follows it has the most mattifying effect of all but still effectively hydrates oily skin.

This line, I think, is responsible for the most abrupt whitening of my skin. I noticed because I applied everything on my neck as well and now it is the same shade as my face, which used to be lighter.

VMV Id Salicylic Acid. The last I have tried, the entire line, which is locally made, is designed for face and body. The salicylic acid is stronger than most and it takes very little to cover the clogged areas. Some showed sensitivity to the product and had allergic reactions on the face due to the high acid content. But this can be heaven-sent even for them if used on the rest of the body.

The facial cleanser and shaving cream, P309, is great for removing makeup and shaving unwanted hair on face for men and legs and underarms for women. Some people find the skin buffing pumice, P319, too strong for the face, causing breakouts.

It is a different story, though, from the neck down as it exfoliates the rough skin on the back, chest, arms, and especially the legs and underarms where hair and clogged pores ruin the smooth line. The Id toner and after-shave, P479, has a smell reminiscent of a clinic but it seals pores and soothes irritation. Id skin lotion, P499, penetrates the skin, exfoliates dead cells and makes lets new, soft and lighter skin to emerge.

Now the rest of my body is catching up with my face and neck in lightness. Secret weapon: Id soap, P169, has exfoliating grains responsible for my smooth legs and back now. It sloughs off crocodile skin and the thicker dead skin. It also eliminates oil plugs that accumulate on my back and chest big time for lack of products to exfoliate them as often as my face. This is great in preparing for self-tanning.

Phytomer retail products are available in Rustan's Department store, Makati and Shangri-La Plaza. Neutrogena, L'Oreal and VMV are available at leading department stores and drugstores

Erratum: In last week's column, the proper name of J.Lo's perfume is Glow by J.Lo.

THE CORRECT photo of Calvin Klein's Eternity Purple Orchid, mentioned in last week's column

FOODparks by RAINTREE and milkwear
present a Fashion show
with N2 Deep's dancing music
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NEW! QUICK PUNCH DOY PACK
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Dalandan juice drink
With Vitamin C
contains natural dalandan juice!
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Also available: Orange • Mango • Strawberry • Grape • Apple • Pineapple
Guyabano • Calamansi • Mango-Orange • Mango-Calamansi • Mango-Lemon-Lime

Foundation shades match every skin tone

AVON introduces the innovative Beyond Color Perfecting Powder Foundation.

A first of its kind, powder foundation offers shades that will match every woman's skin tone. This is made possible by the patent-pending Natural Match Technology SPF 15 that mimics natural skin tone.

Beyond Color Perfecting Powder Foundation also reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles.

Avon developed the product in response to women's complaints that foundations currently in the market are either a shade lighter or a shade darker than their skin tones. Women are clamoring for something that will truly blend with their skin coloring, cover up the flaws and still look natural.

The product will be available this month from Avon Ladies nationwide and in Avon Boutiques in SM Megamall, SM Southmall, Glorietta and Ali Mall. Call 864-2900.

AVON Beyond Color Perfecting Powder Foundation

Introductory discount for hair treatment

PIANDRE Salons is offering 20-percent off on all Hairoma services as introductory price until May 31. They are also giving away for free Piandre Takeaways Moisturizing Lotion.

Hairoma, a comprehensive hair and scalp treatment, has 20 different combinations of treatments.

Piandre clients can choose depending on type of scalp (normal, dry, with dandruff, oily, devitalized with thinning and falling hair) and hair type (normal, dry, chemically treated, fine/limp) for the most suitable treatment for them.

All Hairoma treatments come with an aromatherapy scalp massage and the 30-minute Piandre spot massage. In some branches, clients can have their Hairoma treatments in designated spaces that offer a serene and calming environment.

Hairoma treatments use Natural Tech by Davines, Italy, using only natural-based ingredients from plant and fruit extracts.

Hairoma treatments are available only at Piandre Salons, which are in Greenbelt (tel. 816-3884); Timog (927-3448); Annapolis, Greenhills (722-6615); Intrepid Bldg., Libis (437-7021); J. Abad Santos, San Juan (726-1084); Del Monte Avenue (413-7183/92).

atural tech
natural tech

HAIROMA treatments at Piandre use Natural Tech by Davines, Italy.

LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

STANDING TALL. Joe Franz slips into Anthony Nocom's black knit top with checkerboard pattern (P629.75) and cream stretch cotton pants (P669.75).

The Pinoy fop, without apologies

STORY ON PAGE 12

THE PODIUM and BRITISH COUNCIL in cooperation with SMART present

Bath & BEYOND

A WORLD MUSIC WEEKEND

May 16, 5:00 p.m.
Pinikpikan
Bo Razon &
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May 17, 7:00 p.m.
Grace Nono &
Tao Music Ensemble

May 18, 7:00 p.m.
Cynthia Alexander

UK's Bath Music Festival recreated at The Podium

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BACK 2 SCHOOL

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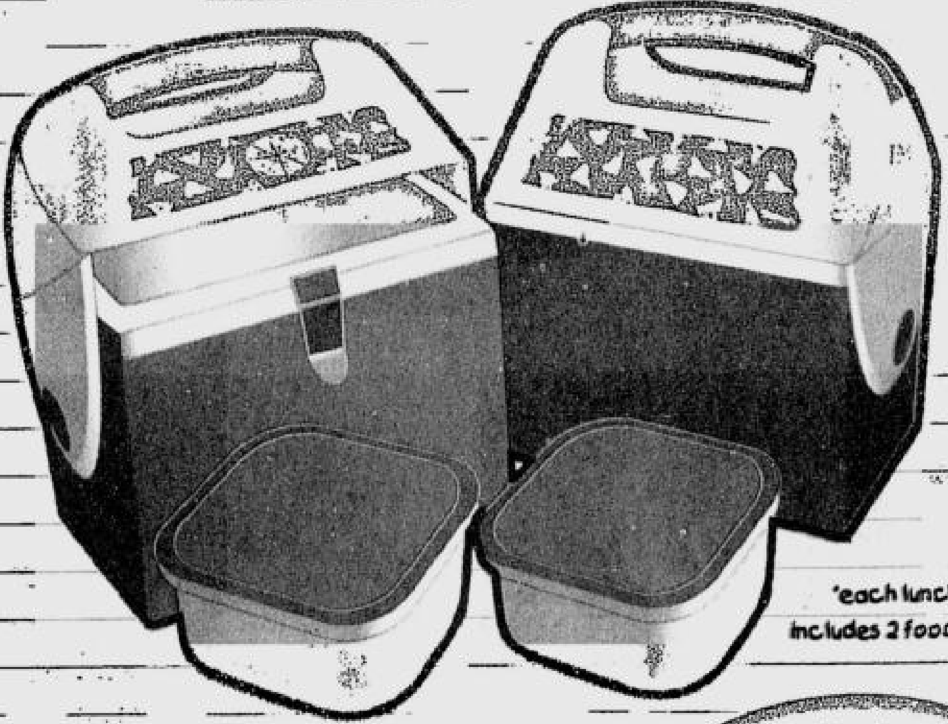

*each lunch box includes 2 food keepers

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for only P95

promo runs from may 7 to june 15, 2003.
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Del Monte Quality

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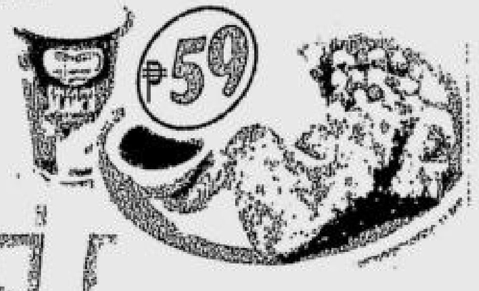


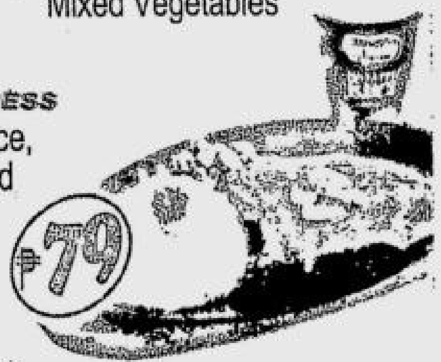
KAMAY KAINAN
Crispy Chicken or any Chicken, Shanghai and Vegetables, Pansit, Rice and Soup

Sandy's Cuisine
Mixed Vegetables with Quail Eggs, Plain Rice and Soup

WEI-CHUAN FOODS
Any 1 Viand
Plain Rice, Soup and Pansit Canton

SIZZLING PLATE
Porkchop, Java Rice and Mixed Vegetables

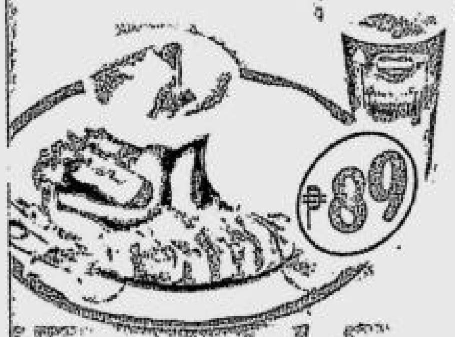
Chin's EXPRESS
Beef in Oyster Sauce, Seafood Curry and Plain Rice



PINOY TOPPINGS
Bistik Tagalog, Kangkong, 1 pc Egg, Rice and Soup

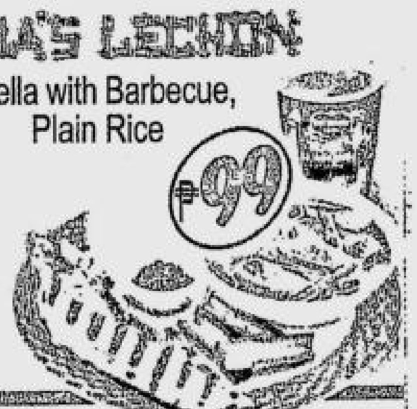
Inihaw EXPRESS
Big Squid, Sinigang na Baboy, Fried Talong w/ Bagoong, Plain Rice

TONKATSU かつ吉
Karaage Meal (Fried Chicken, Rice Soup and Salad)



LYDIA'S LECHON
Paella with Barbecue, Plain Rice

HEN LIN
HAND DIMSUM HOUSE
Sweet and Sour Pork Topping, Siomai



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75g Fiesta Fruit Cocktail for every COMBO MEAL PURCHASED

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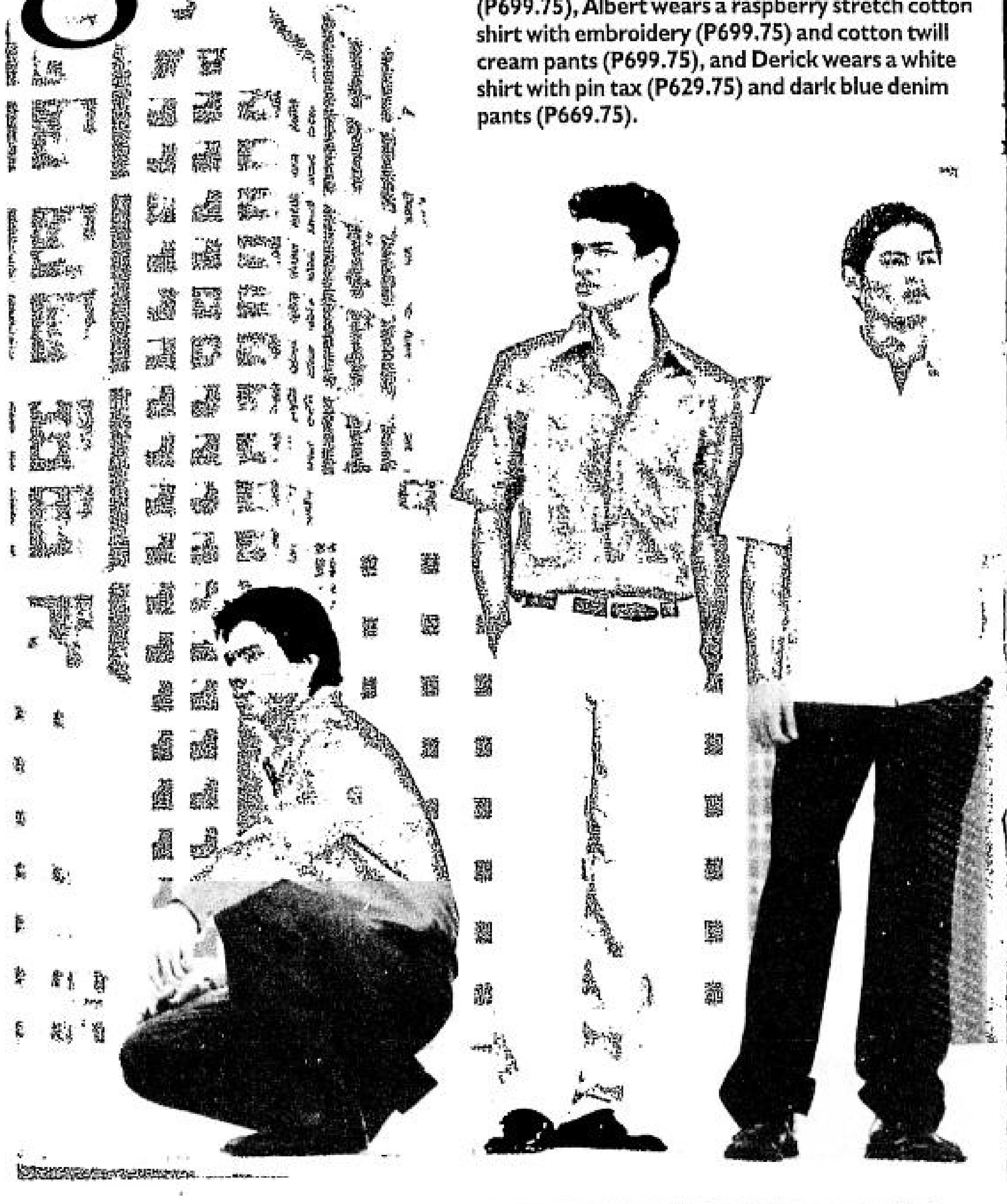
FREE!
GARFIELD 25th ANNIVERSARY TUMBLER FOR EVERY ₱ 99 COMBO MEAL PURCHASED

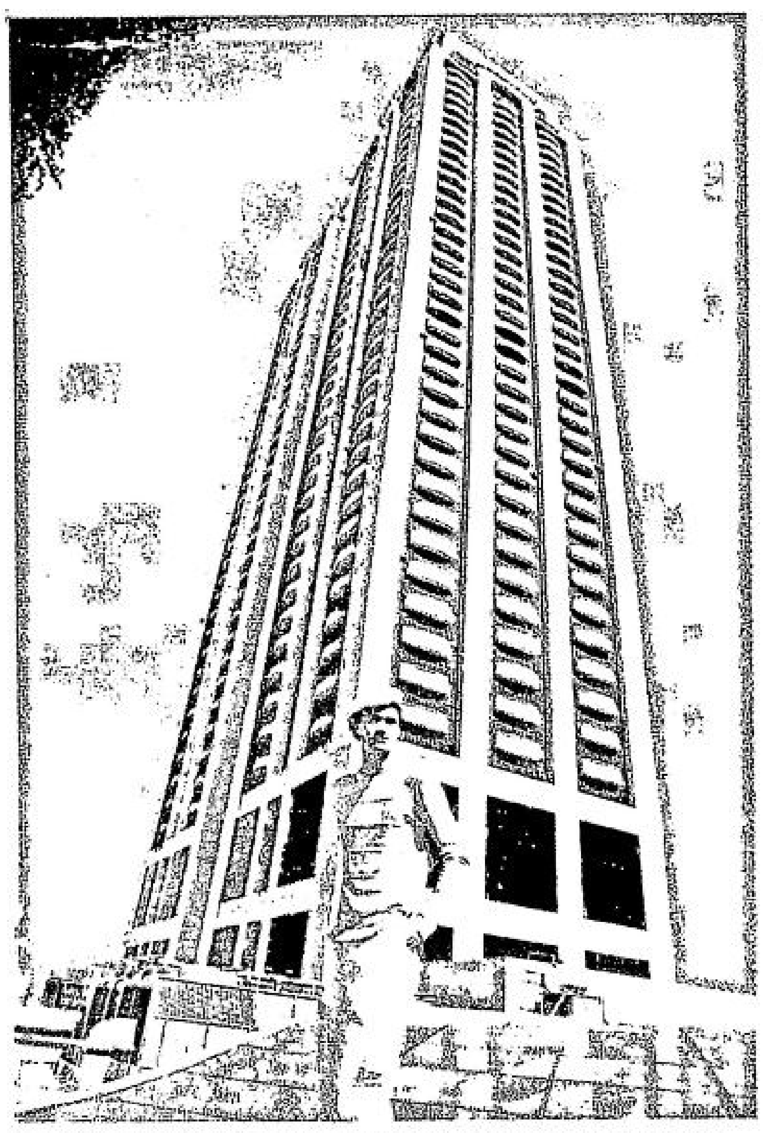
Promo runs March 15 to May 31, 2003

BOYZ N THE HOOD. The three wear variations of Nocom's cotton twill pants and knit tops: Joe Franz in beige and mocha, Albert in electric blue and black, and Derick in black and cream.

The Pinoy fop, without apologies



LOOKING UP. Joe Franz wears a long-sleeved rust shirt (P699.75) and wool blend dark brown pants (P699.75), Albert wears a raspberry stretch cotton shirt with embroidery (P699.75) and cotton twill cream pants (P699.75), and Derick wears a white shirt with pin tax (P629.75) and dark blue denim pants (P669.75).



SKY'S THE LIMIT. Albert wears a ribbed knit cream top (P699.75) and white cargo pants (P669.75).

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

BEFORE wives and girlfriends howl in protest, a growing number of Filipino men can now do without their partners in shopping for trendy clothes. This may come as a surprise, but men have become more fastidious when it comes to fit, especially in such sensitive areas as, ah, the crouch and the behind.

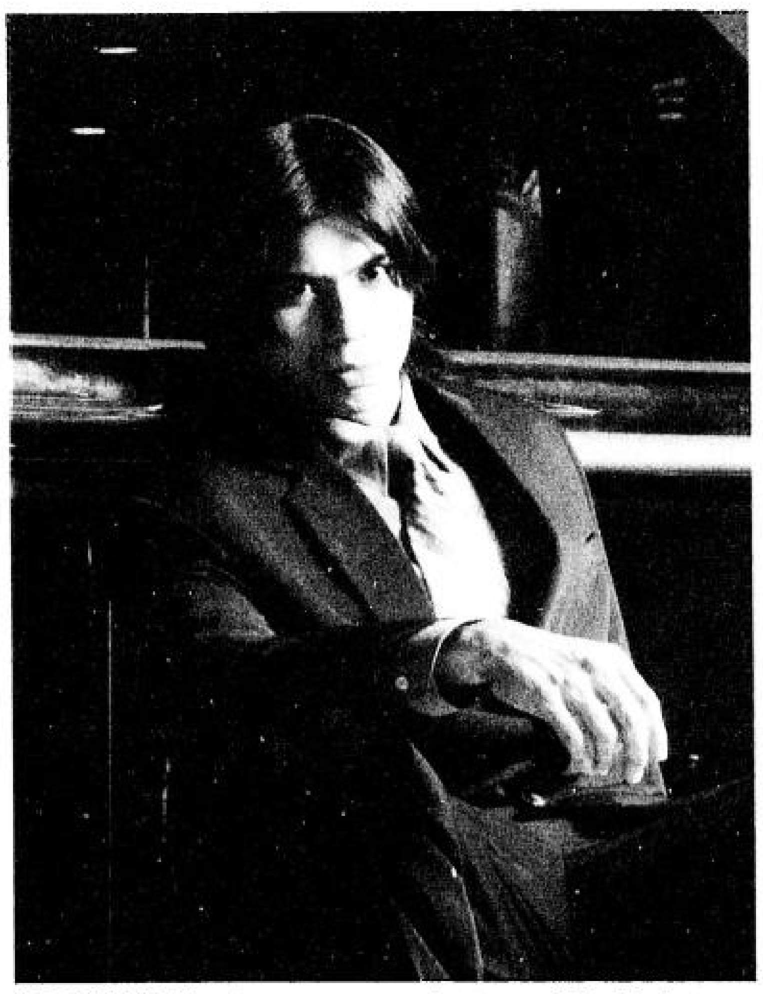
Anthony Nocom of Shoemart has been designing men's clothes for nearly two decades now not to notice such radical shifts in men's shopping behavior.

Men, Nocom says, are now more open to new cuts, colors, materials and silhouettes, and won't have second thoughts of hitting the gym to look good in, say, a fitted pair of pants or a body-hugging knit top.

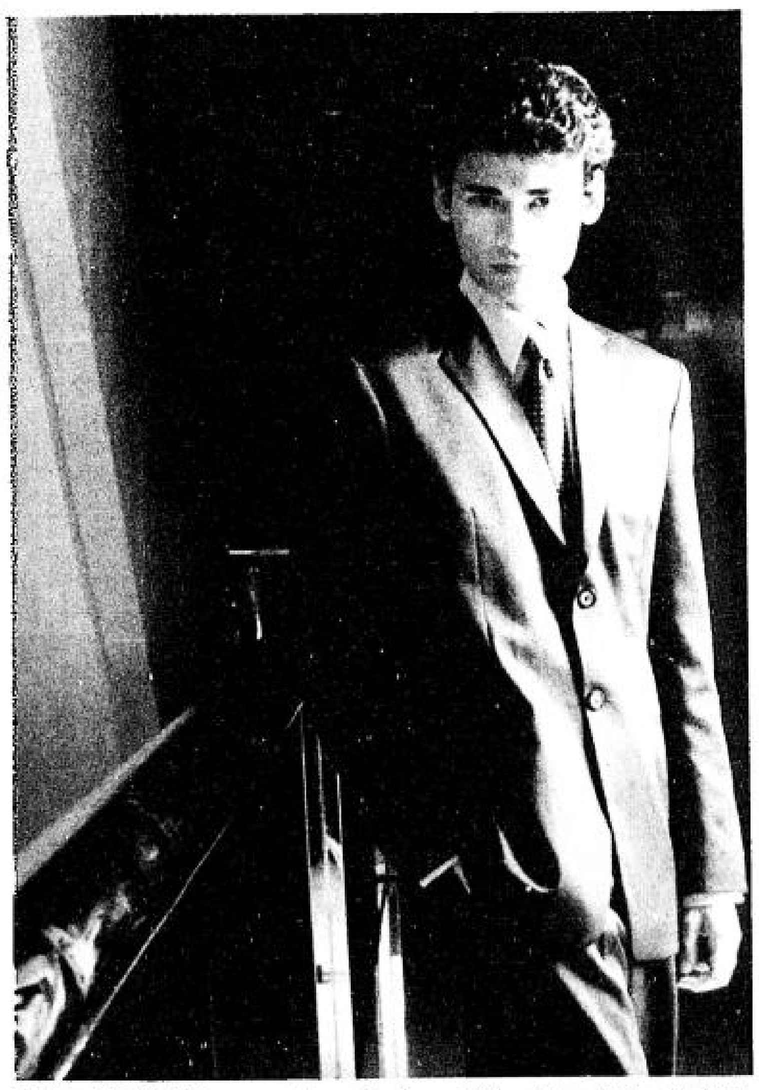
"After all these years, Filipinos' me-too mentality is still very much alive," says Nocom. "They don't want to be left behind by friends when it comes to the latest trends in fashion."

Because of easier access to glossy foreign fashion mags and new forms of media such as cable TV and the Internet, even the most reluctant fashionista is hard pressed not to ignore the latest rage.

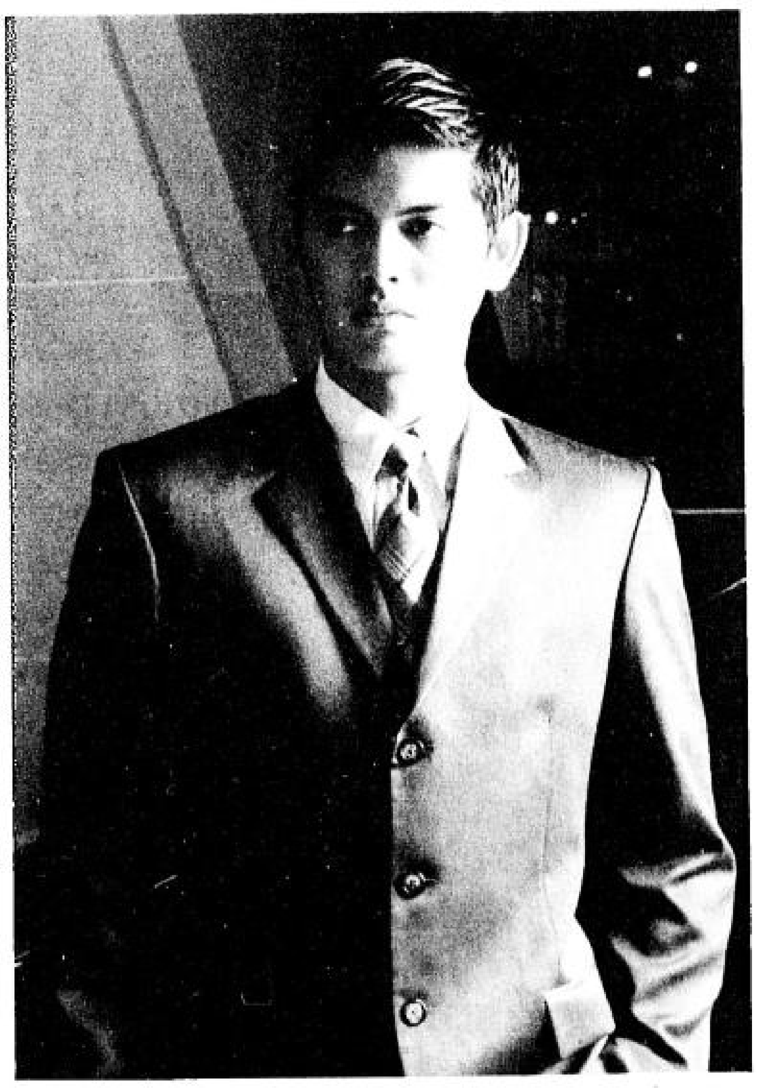
As one of Shoemart's top in-house designers, Nocom has been coming up with men's clothes under his name since 1990. Before that, the fine arts graduate, who started his career with Shoemart as a merchandiser in 1981, worked behind the scenes, designing wearable staples for the mall chain's in-house



READ MY LIPS. Joe Franz wears a two-button wool blend jacket (P3,299.75), matching pants (P699.75), moss green shirt (P629.75) and D. Luis tie (P149.75).



PRETTY BOY. Albert opts for a classic wool blend two-button jacket (P3,299.75), matching pants (P699.75), mustard shirt (P629.75) and D. Luis tie (P149.75).



IN YOUR EYES. Derick wears a three-button wool blend jacket (P3,299.75), matching pants (P699.75), sky blue shirt (P629.75) and D. Luis tie (P149.75).

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Anthony Nocom has hewed closely to the legendary conservative fashion taste of the Filipino male. But a little adventure is always welcome

CLOTHES:
ANTHONY NOCOM
FOR SHOEMART
ACCESSORIES:
SHOEMART
MODELS:
JOE FRANZ CANIZARES, ALBERT ADRALES AND DERICK CORREA,
CALCARRIE'S PHILIPPINES
STYLING: CHECHEL JOSON
HAIR AND GROOMING:
LOWEL BUENAVENTURA
(TEL. 741-78-01)
LOCATION: PODIUM

BRIDGING THE GAP. Derick, holding a zip-front beige jacket (P1,199), wears a ribbed knit lime green shirt with dark blue trim (P549.75) and dark blue denim pants (P669.75).

BOYS OF SUMMER. Derick Correa, Joe Franz Canizares and Albert Adrales in white tops Anthony Nocom designed exclusively for the shoot. Cotton pants (P669.75 each) are available at all Shoemart department stores.

brands such as Newsmakers and Men's Club.

But despite being more open and exposed to new ideas, Filipino men are still more conservative compared to some of their Asian counterparts. And since Shoemart caters to a mass clientele, clothes that are deemed too radical by higher-ups have no place in its stores.

No radical lines

"Even if I wanted to," says Nocom, "I can't design radical lines because they won't move. I can only come out with something different every time there's a fashion show."

Except for beige and cream, "sorbet" colors such as lavender, mint green and peach have no place in Nocom's summer collection. What he has plenty of are sports shirts and knit tees in white, black, lime green and various shades of blue, orange and red.

"Red is the farthest I can go," the designer says.

Pants in cotton and wool blend come in basic colors such as black, charcoal gray and dark blue.

In keeping with the sultry season, Nocom has added cotton twill pants in white, beige, cream and indigo into the mix. For some reason, flat-front pants don't readily appeal to Filipinos.

"Most of the pants I carry come either with one or two pleats," he says. "I have yet to find out the reason why flat-fronts aren't as salable. I guess Filipinos find pleated pants roomier and more comfortable."

Even if most of Nocom's clothes come in basic cuts, most of his current silhouettes are decidedly more tapered. Jackets, for instance, have a slimmer fit—from the lapel down to the body, as seen in the formal ensemble worn by the three male models in this spread.

Speaking of jackets, Nocom has found that the three-button suit isn't as salable among Filipinos as the two-button variety. Unless most Filipino men gain several inches overnight, the designer won't be carrying double-breasted suits anytime soon.

"A double-breasted suit only works if you're tall," Nocom explains. "Otherwise, you're better off with a two- or three-button suit."

Embroidered style

Thanks to advances in clothing technology, the now widely available wrinkle-resistant stretch cotton has found its way in Nocom's polo shirts, either plain or machine-embroidered.

The trend of geometric and linear embroidery, whether ethnic-inspired or a throwback to the early 1970s, has been around for almost a year now. But it was only fairly recently, however, that Nocom incorporated the eye-catching element in some of his clothes.

"Embroidered shirts would have been too advanced for my market a year ago," he says. "But the first two embroidered collections I had, which I introduced only recently, did very well."

Knit tops in solid colors are also fairly recent additions to the collection. The absence of light and affordable materials hindered him from coming out with a knitwear collection much earlier.

By the way, most of the materials he uses for his clothes are either sourced locally or from China.

"My clothes are really quite basic," says Nocom. "The ultimate compliment for me would be if customers look and feel good in them. It's really up to them to put a particular look together." With or without their partners' unsolicited advice.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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Summer wear for plus-sized men

FINDING clothes that fit and feel right have always been a challenge for plus-sized people—for men, especially.

M Big Men came about specifically to cater to guys on the heavy side. A store that specializes in designing clothes for plus-sized men, it recently came out with its own summer collection.

"Since temperatures can be scorching during summer, our collection features soft, light and breathable fabrics to ensure that comfort is never compromised," says M Big Men general manager Jong See. "Style is all in the details so our summer collection showcases simple lines and worn out pieces, which exudes a more relaxed, comfortable and at-ease feeling."

When heading out for outdoor activities, See advises men to pack clothes that blend well together, such as M Big Men's ringer tees, relaxed linen and cotton polos, vintage vibe cargo pants and long and short cool khakis.

SOFT, light and breathable fabrics to ensure that comfort is never compromised

Colors in vogue this summer are yellow, blue, orange, heather gray, red, white, even black. "Black complements white and practically every other color," says See. "Black can also be used for just about every activity, from casual lounging to club hopping."

M Big Men's growing base of customers come from all sectors. As See puts it, their clients are men who are "no-nonsense dressers... who are well aware that whatever they buy should both be practical and versatile." Soon, students and teenagers will also have their own choices at M Big Men.

M Big Men stores are located at the 2nd level of SM City Annex North Edsa, SM Annex Pampanga, 2nd level Festival Supermall Alabang, 5th level Shangri-La Mall, 2nd level SM City Bicutan and level 1 Robinsons Place Expansion Manila.

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Underwear for Pinoys

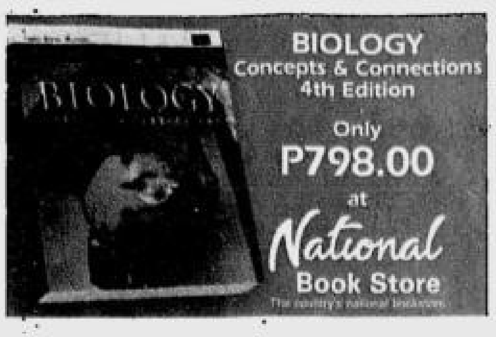
THERE'S a new line of men's undergarments in the market, and it's from Playboy, the pioneering men's fashion and entertainment brand.

The Playboy Men's Underwear is geared towards what it calls "sophisticated and sensual Filipino men." Jeffrey See, president of Volvo Clothing, the Philippine licensee of Playboy Men's Underwear, says that, deep within, "every man wants to be a Playboy—a man admired by his peers and women for his achievements, charismatic character, and refined taste." Playboy's bunny logo, he says, has become a powerful symbol of manhood through the years.

See projects that Playboy Men's Underwear will become one of the key players in the high-end underwear market in the country in the next few years because of its superior quality and fashionable designs. "But you can't also dismiss the fact that it bears a brand name Filipino men would immediately associate themselves with," he says.

The classic brand, established in 1953 to cater to "confident, smart, trendy, witty, creative, expressive, open and playful men from around the world," is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Playboy Men's Underwear offers classic briefs, bikinis, boxer shorts, boxer briefs, and thongs in chic silhouettes and colors—white, black, gray, and navy blue, as well as comfy undershirts in round, V-neck, sleeveless and *sando* styles. They are available in all Ever Department Stores, Robinsons Place Ermita and Pampanga, Landmark Department Store, NCCC-Davao City and New Tom's in Batangas.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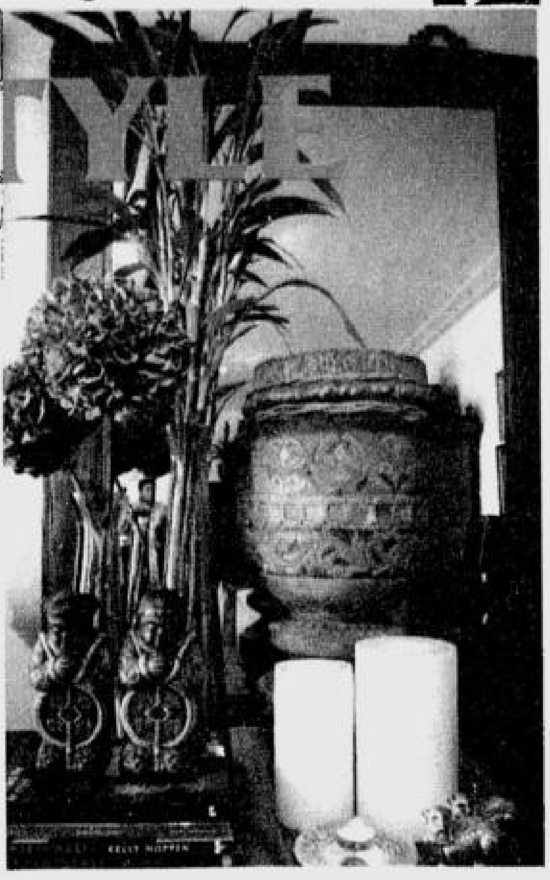
Two design idioms, one artistic Spirit

Old Asia's prime movers show contrasting design evolutions in the use of distressed and antique pieces



ANTIQUE Elmwood frame from China, Maranaw drum and pair of Chinese figurines catch the eye in Monette's living room.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

IN-LAWS Jojo and Monette Mapa's love for antique and distressed furniture and accent pieces from various parts of the Orient began a few years ago with their active involvement in Old Asia, the family-owned lifestyle store with branches at the Power Plant and Shangri-La Plaza.

Monette Mapa (nee Ventura), GM of Old Asia, is married to Jojo's brother Mike, while Jojo, an interior designer, is married to chef Aleth Ocampo. Mike and Aleth have given Monette and Jojo free rein to transform their respective condo units in Makati into their versions of contemporary Asian living spaces. Majority of the pieces in the units, of course, came from Old Asia.

"I've always loved to be surrounded by interesting furniture pieces, preferably from Asia," says Monette. "I began to develop an eye for the finer things when I started joining my mother-in-law (Pachot Mapa) on regional buying trips."

Jojo, of course, grew up imbibing his well-traveled mom's taste in furniture. "Having grown up with a mom who loves unique furniture pieces from all over the region, I learned early on how to appreciate and mix things around. It became second nature to me."

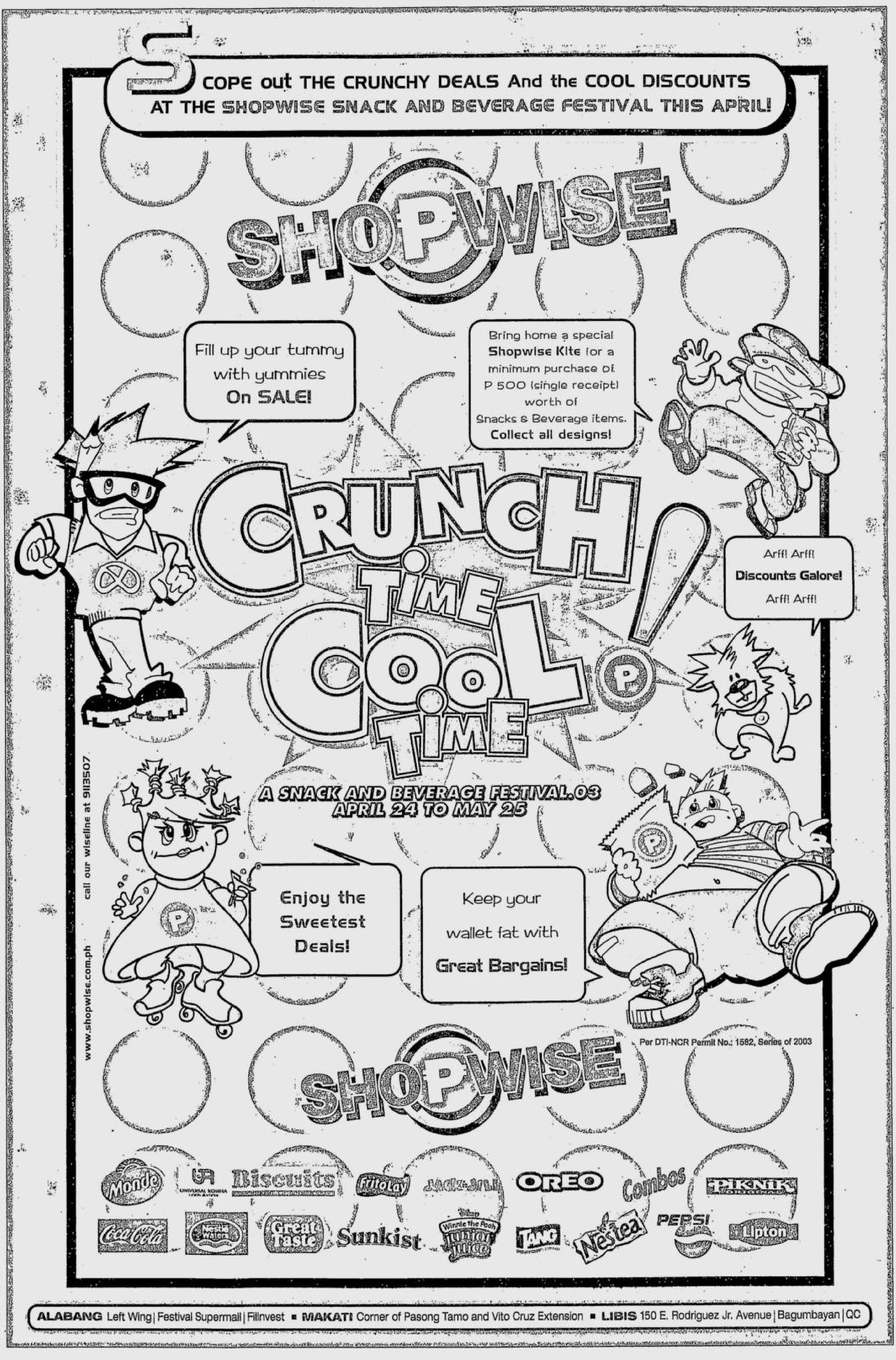
But despite their shared passion for anything and everything Asian, Jojo and Monette have each evolved their own styles.

While Jojo favors a more streamlined setup, Monette makes sure that every available space in her modest condo unit is maximized. Through the years, she has devised a number of methods to keep every area in the house cohesive and uncluttered.

Grouping

One such method is by grouping similar objects together. Several red Burmese offering containers fashioned from wood and bamboo, for example, are displayed on an antique altar

TWO/J2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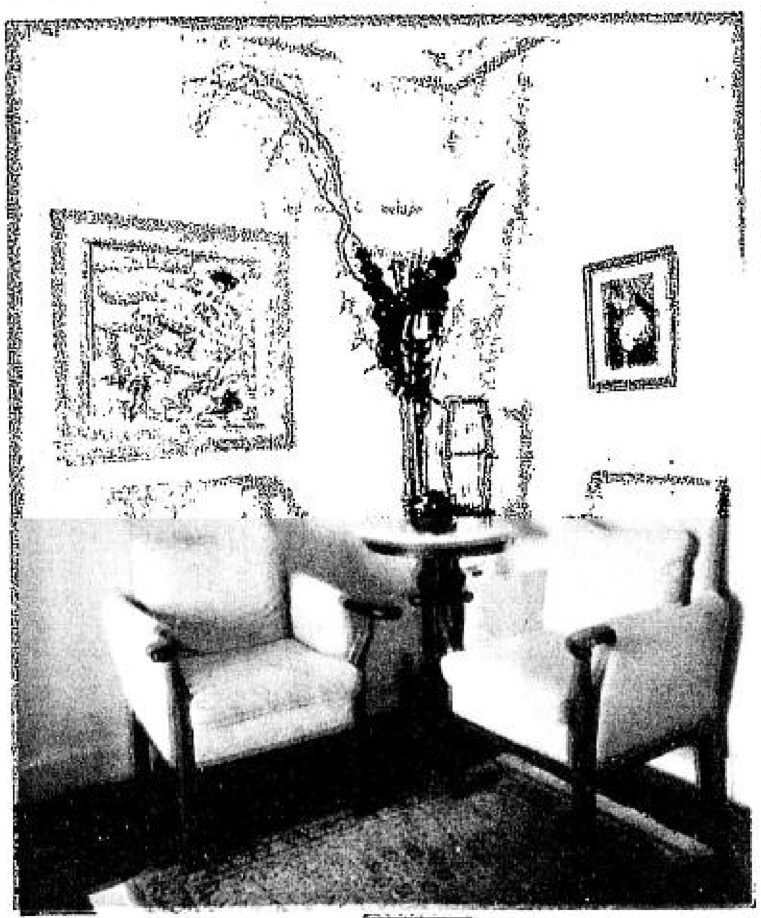
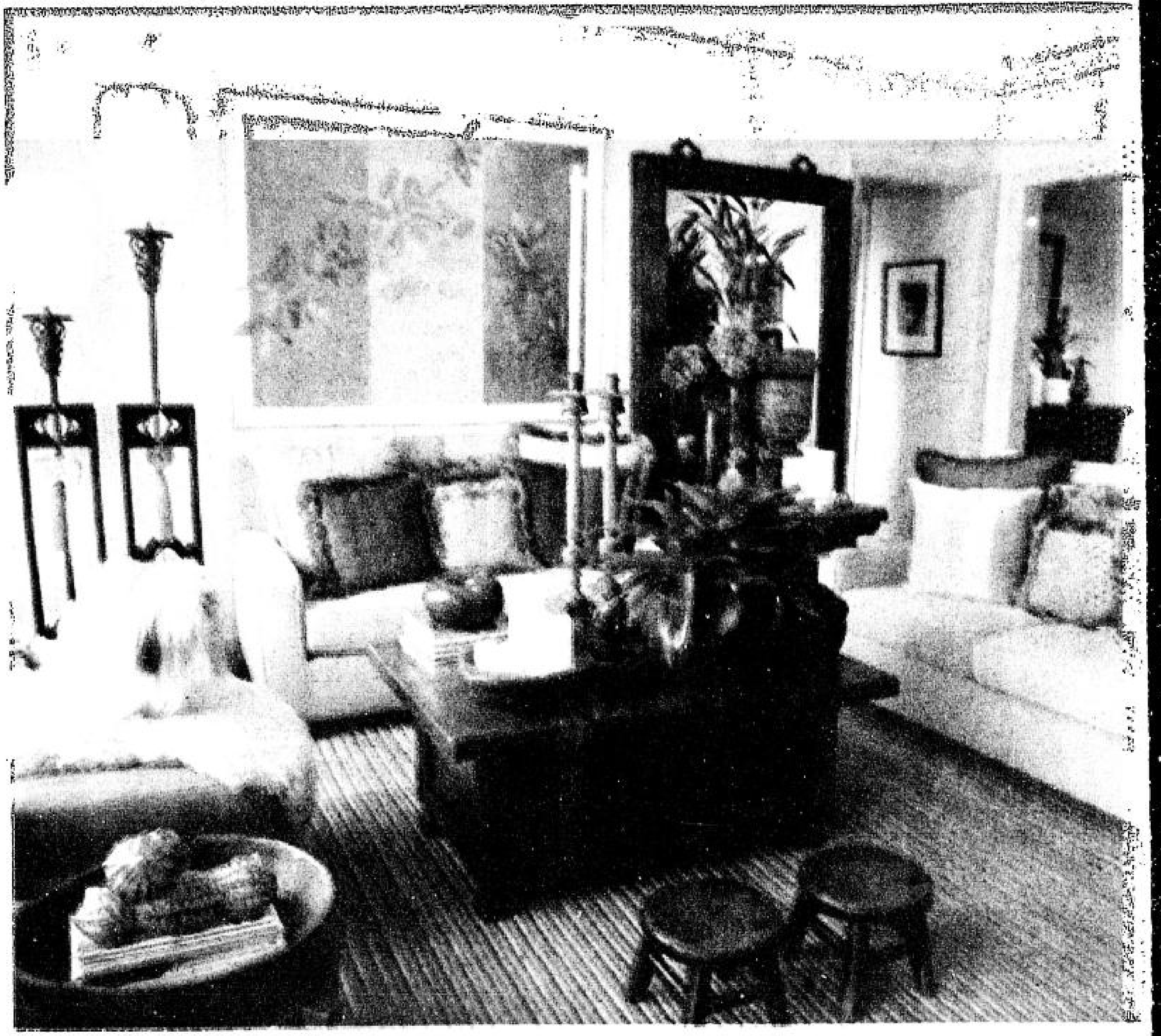
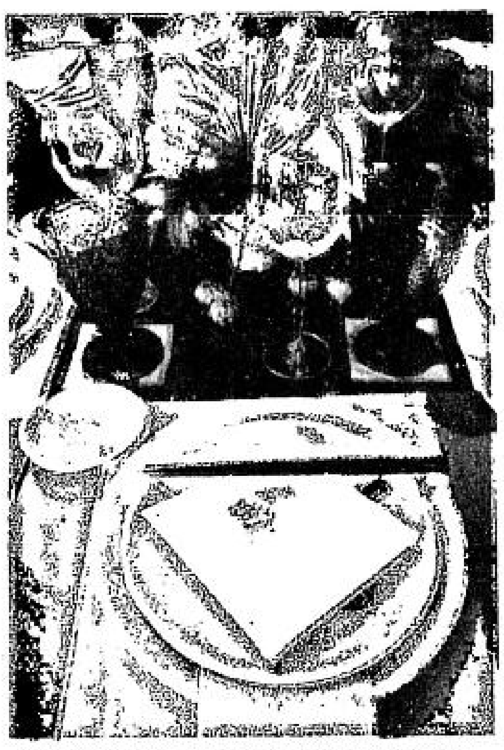


ANTIQUE Filipino roundtable, birdcage lamp by Old Asia, clown painting by Manuel Garibay and small painting by Teddy Mapa liven up a living room corner.

MONETTE Mapa



Two design idioms, one artistic spirit



MONETTE'S table setting is adorned with miniature Cambodian silver pieces.

From page J1

table dating back to 19th century China.

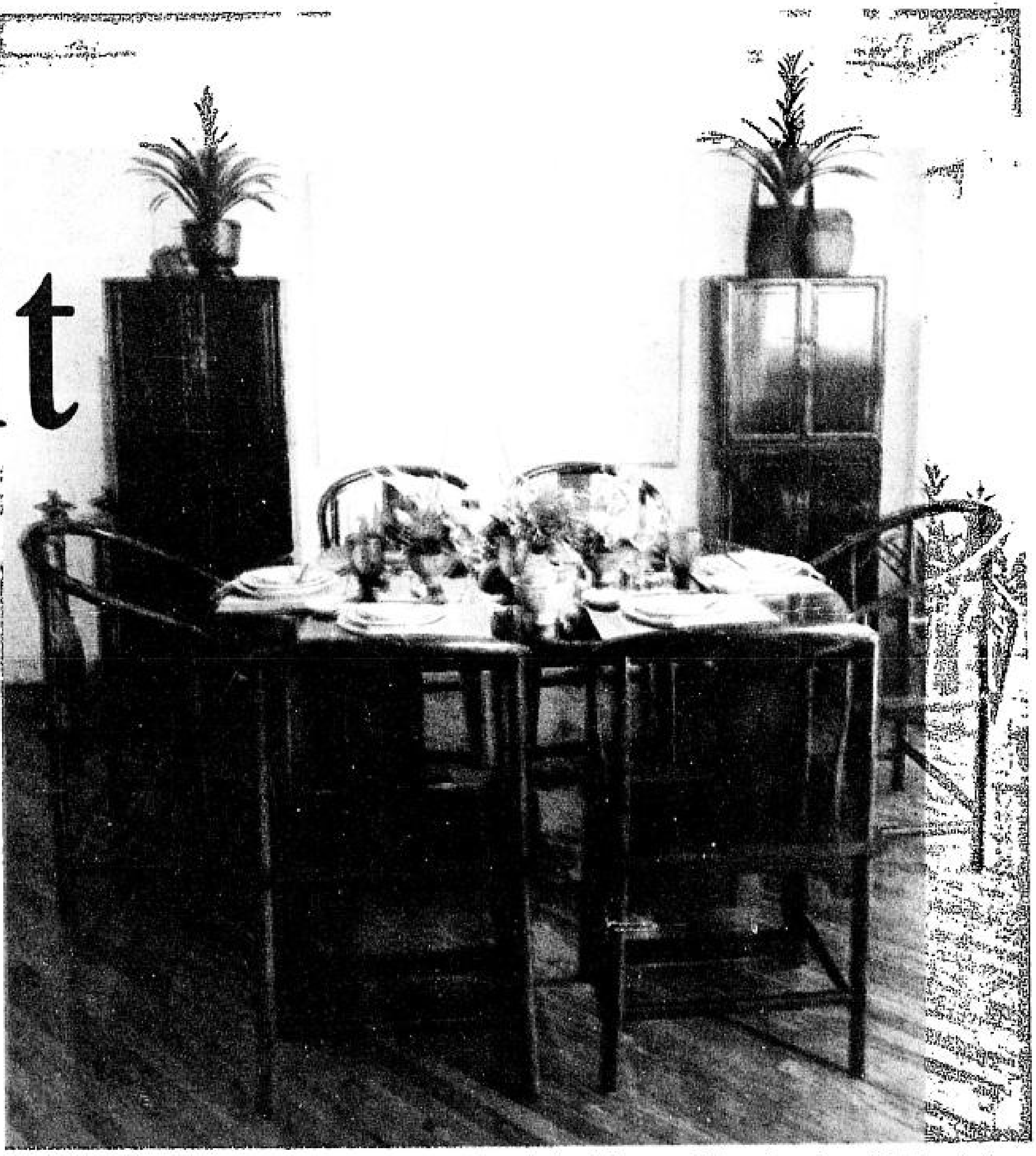
Monette has also found practical uses for a number of native gems. An antique cabinet made of *narra* and *kamagong* from the Ilocos now functions as the family's entertainment center in the living room, containing, among other items, Mike's turntable, CD player and vintage "*de-tubo*" amplifier.

"Mike is very much into his audio system," says Monette. "He lets me do all the interior decorating, but this spot belongs to him."

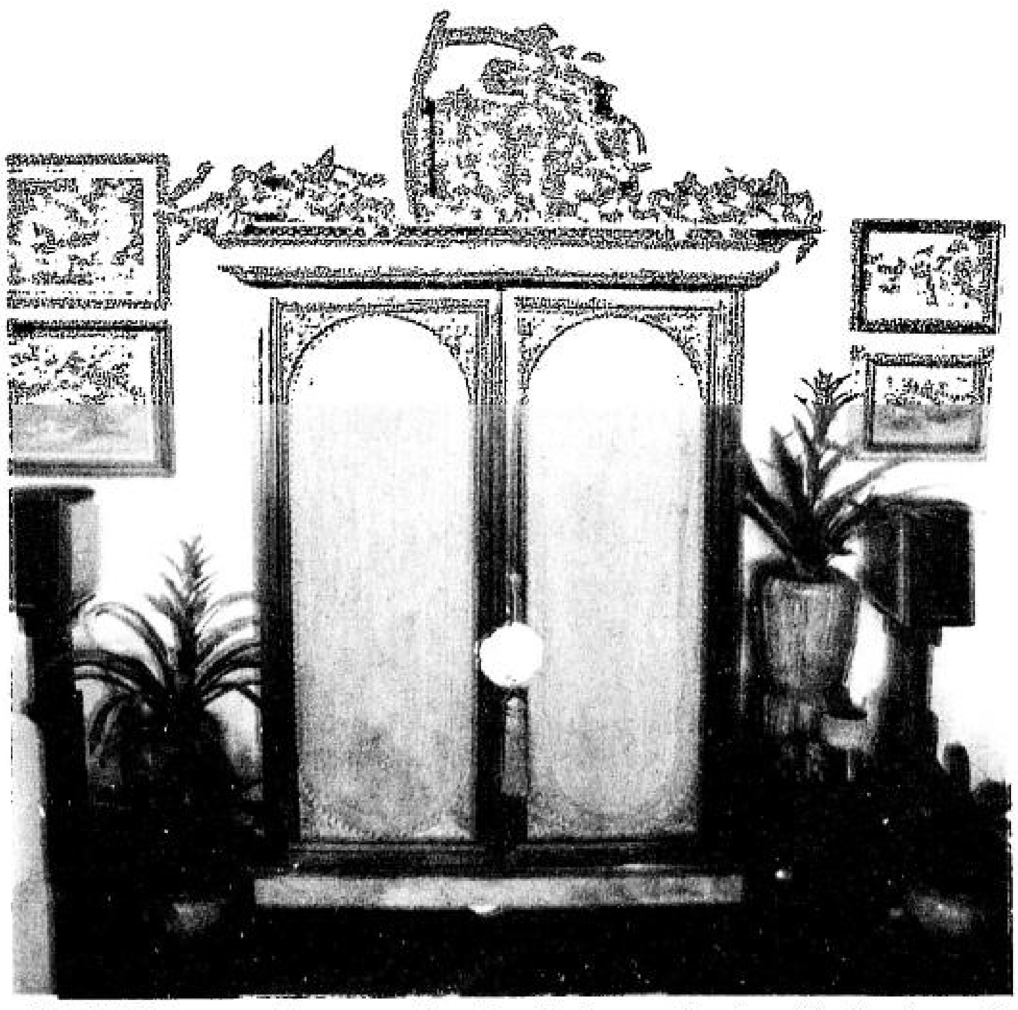
Monette turned an antique water bucket from China that also dates back to the 19th century into a plant holder for her bromeliads. Another water bucket now functions as a magazine rack.

"I make it a point to have plenty of greens inside the house," says Monette of her indoor plants, which directly face the morning sun. "It makes us happy to have plants around."

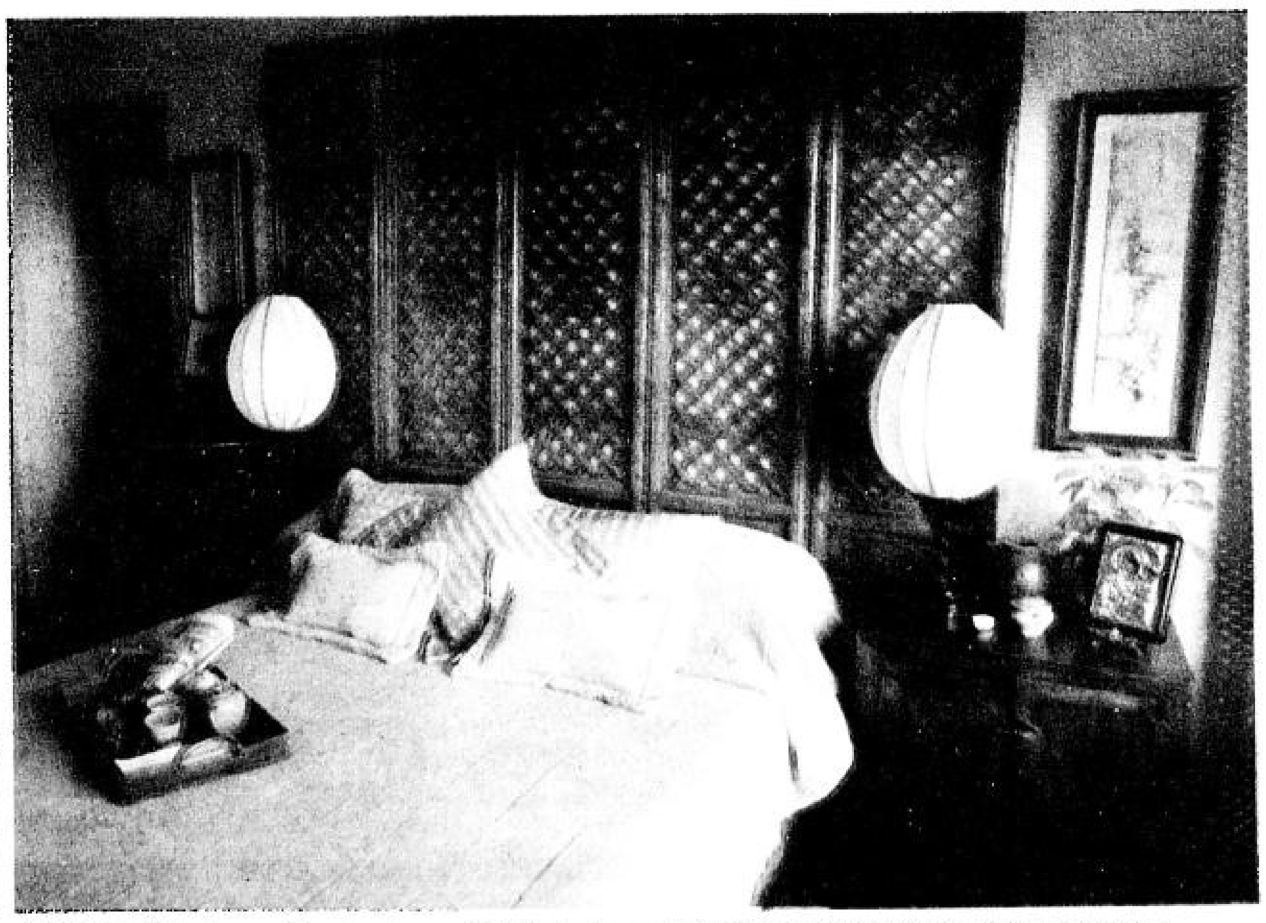
Although certain accent pieces come in two, Monette breaks the monotony by pairing, for example, a planter from China with an identical one with a missing handle. Her



PAINTING by Bobby Nuestro breaks the dark wood pieces in the dining area: Chinese horseshoe chairs in walnut wood and pair of antique Elmwood Chinese cabinets.



AN ANTIQUE *narra* and *kamagong* cabinet from the Ilocos region stores Mike Mapa's sound system. An antique Chinese water bucket crowns the top of the cabinet, while paintings on the left are by Dominador Castañeda.



THE MASTER bedroom Monette shares with Mike features a set of antique Chinese screens that doubles as a headboard, a pair of antique side tables from China and a pair of lotus lamps by Old Asia.

MONETTE'S matches up floor lamps and antique miniature stools from China in the living room; *molave* coffee table from Bohol is central to the theme.

NARRA rice bowl and behind it a pair of Maranaw drums

PAINTING by Manuel Garibay and pair of elmwood chairs from China greet visitors in Monette's foyer.

attempts at juxtaposition are also evident in the dining table where a mix of tiny, animal-shaped silver pieces from Cambodia complement rustic wooden bowls from Thailand.

A number of areas also follow a color scheme anchored on a particular painting by established and new artists. The twin sofas in the living room, including several throw pillows, mirror the colors of an oil painting by Kochta, a New York-based painter. The family also owns paintings by Filipino artists Bobby Nuestro and Manuel Garibay.

Two dark leather chests also come in a reddish hue that echoes the color of several throw pillows. In fact, one immediately notices several leather boxes in ascending sizes upon entering the living room. Monette loves to keep things in order, using small but beautiful (and expensive!) packages.

Monette did away with a four-poster bed made of cast-iron in favor of a double-bed set against a 19th century Chinese wooden screen composed of five panels. Made of pinewood and lightly varnished, the screen provides a perfect foil to a pair of dark antique side tables also from China.

"I originally wanted to furnish the house with modern pieces," she says. "But after I went around, I couldn't bring myself to pay huge sums of money for any of it. Not only are antiques more beautiful and interesting, in time they also appreciate in value."

Spare

In another condo unit in a different part of Makati, Jojo combines several Asian antiques with a few modern pieces in the family's spacious living room.

In contrast to Monette's teeming statement, Jojo is spare in his choice of antique and distressed pieces from all over the region.

One of the living room's key pieces is a modern stone-topped coffee table with a black geometric base. The stone, with its rare blend of light colors, was dug in the Middle East, and now features several vases and containers from Thailand.

A light-colored area rug stands out in stark contrast to the dark parquet flooring; it frames the entire space, which includes a pair of near-identical sofas and two high-back wooden chairs by Greg Sabado.

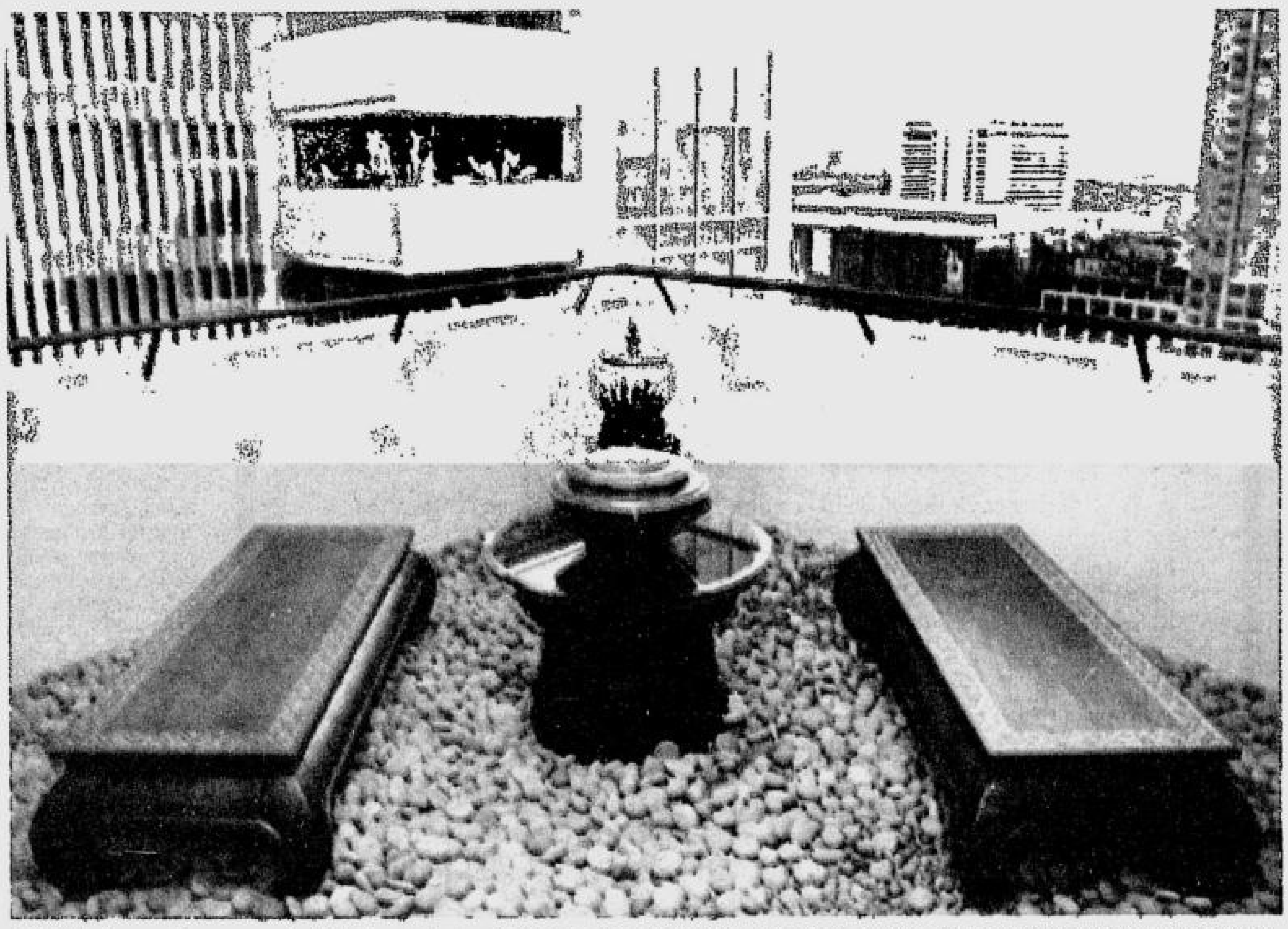
In lieu of artworks, Jojo had a set of old doors from Burma framed in steel, painted in an unusual shade of green and mounted on the bare white wall. Except for the soft glow provided by a series of pin lights, the ceiling is devoid of chandeliers and cornices to better highlight the pieces below.

"I really wanted the walls and ceilings to look like a blank canvass," says Jojo.

On the opposite wall, and one of the public area's focal points, hangs a pair of Burmese inscriptions lifted from Buddhist scriptures.

In between the two inscriptions is an an-

TWO/J4



JOJO'S balcony achieves a garden feel, thanks to smooth river rocks and pair of teakwood benches from Chiangmai. The centerpiece is a Thai rain drum with a Burmese lacquered container on top.

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Australia's lush, green pastures, mild temperatures, abundant clean water and fresh air help produce some of the most delicious lamb year-round. Because its meat is obtained from young sheep, which are less than 12 months old, Australian lamb is very tender, juicy and mild in flavour.

This May, 40 restaurants, hotels and retail chains are taking part in "Oooh-La-Lamb!", a month-long Australian Lamb Festival. The chefs of the select restaurants and hotels have created special lamb dishes for diners. These tasty, tantalizing dishes use lamb delivered directly from Australia --- a satisfying assurance you are being served lamb with the wholesome, flavourful goodness of nature at its best. Participating retail chains are offering Australian lamb cuts.

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Grilled Australian Rack of Lamb served with Eggplant Capponata and Roast Garlic.

Lamb lovers will enjoy themselves at either branch of **Mario's Restaurant** Ortigas or Tomas Morato. Their heavenly Australian lamb dishes are sure to win everyone's heart, especially the Grilled Australian Rack of Lamb served with Eggplant Capponata and Roast Garlic.

Australian Lamb Medallion wrapped in Jamon Serrano

Succulent Australian lamb basks in the limelight this month at **Zucchini's Grill and Vinotek** along Timog Avenue, Quezon City. One of the many mouth-watering dishes awaiting diners is the Australian Lamb Medallion wrapped in Jamon Serrano with Spice and Herb Crust, Minted Cream Sauce with Couscous Salad.

Restaurant 9501
Australian Lamb Chops with Poached Guava

The Australian Lamb Festival also finds its way to **Restaurant 9501** in ELJ Bldg., ABS-CBN Compound, Quezon City. Diners can savor the succulent perfection of several Australian lamb dishes, including the Double Australian Lamb Chops with Poached Guava, Minted Port Wine Reduction and Asparagus Risotto.

Casa Armas
Rosemary Lamb Chop in Curry Yogurt Sauce

Meanwhile, **Casa Armas Tapas Bar Y Restaurante** is serving a range of wondrous Australian lamb dishes, including Chuletas De Cordero Ala Romero --- Rosemary Lamb Chop in Curry Yogurt Sauce. Lamb lovers can drop by at any of its three branches --- Greenbelt 3, The Podium and Jupiter Street in Makati --- for a taste of heaven.

Come to the Australian Lamb Festival and savor the succulent perfection of Australian lamb!

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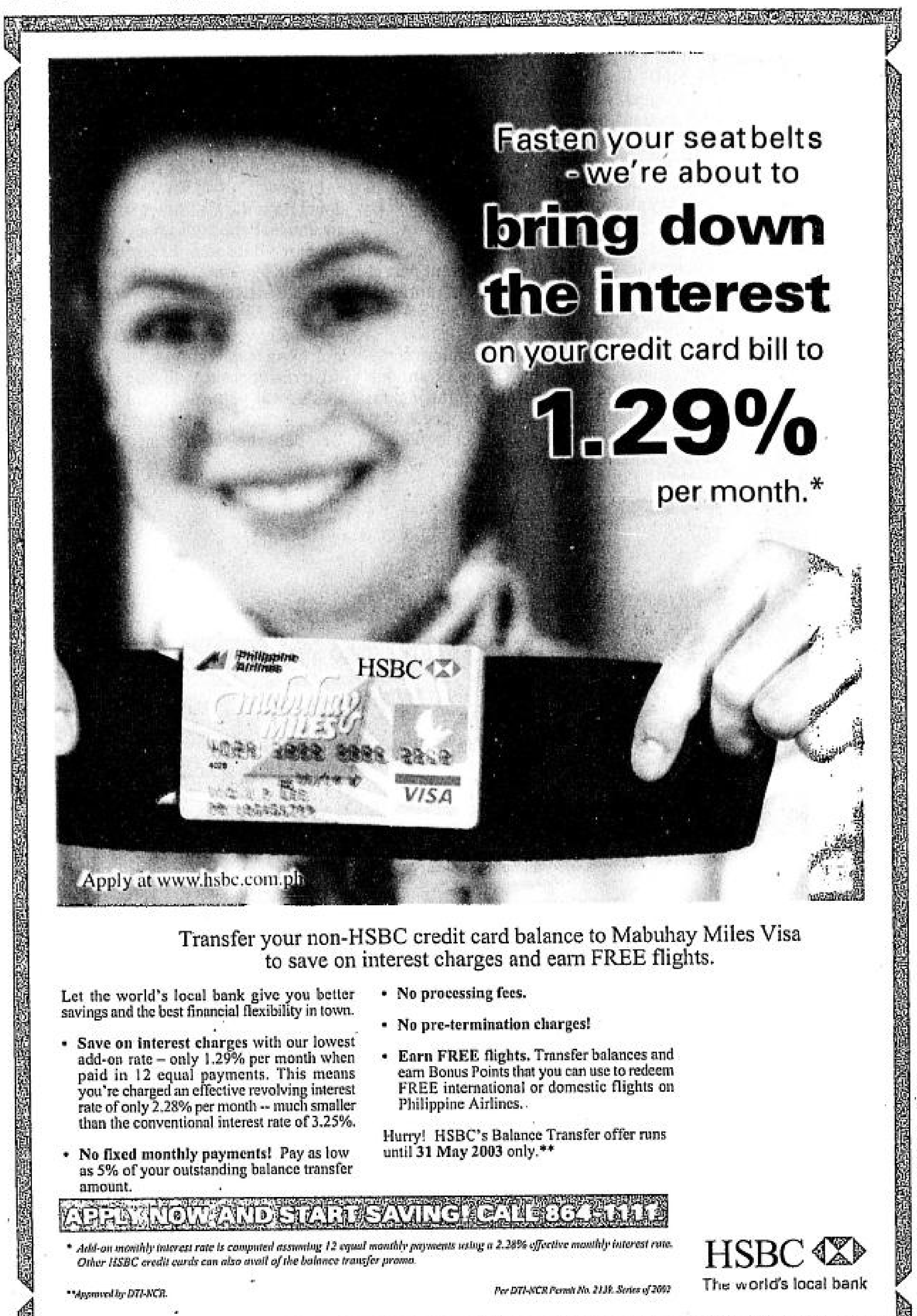
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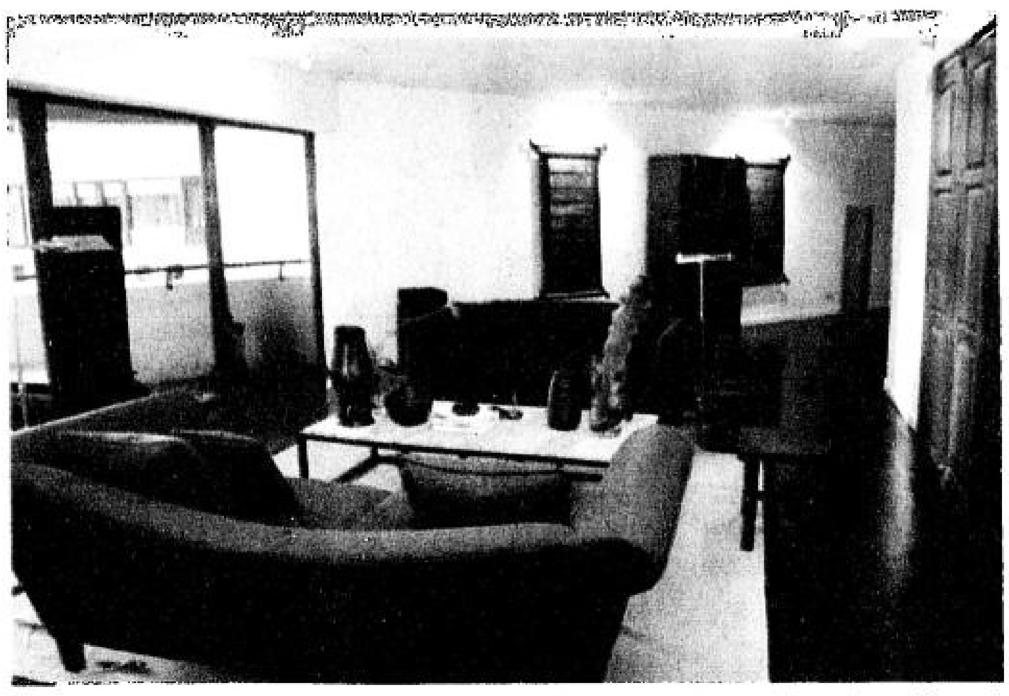


AMONG Jojo's living room's focal points are several Burmese teakwood doors framed in steel and repainted in green. A pair of Burmese inscriptions lifted from Buddhist scriptures and an antique Elmwood cabinet occupy another prominent area that straddles the living room and dining area.

Two design idioms. . .

From page J3

tique 19th century Elmwood cabinet that Jojo converted into an armoire.

Another antique wooden cabinet, this time from Bohol and made of *molave* and *balayong*, now holds the family's china and flatware.

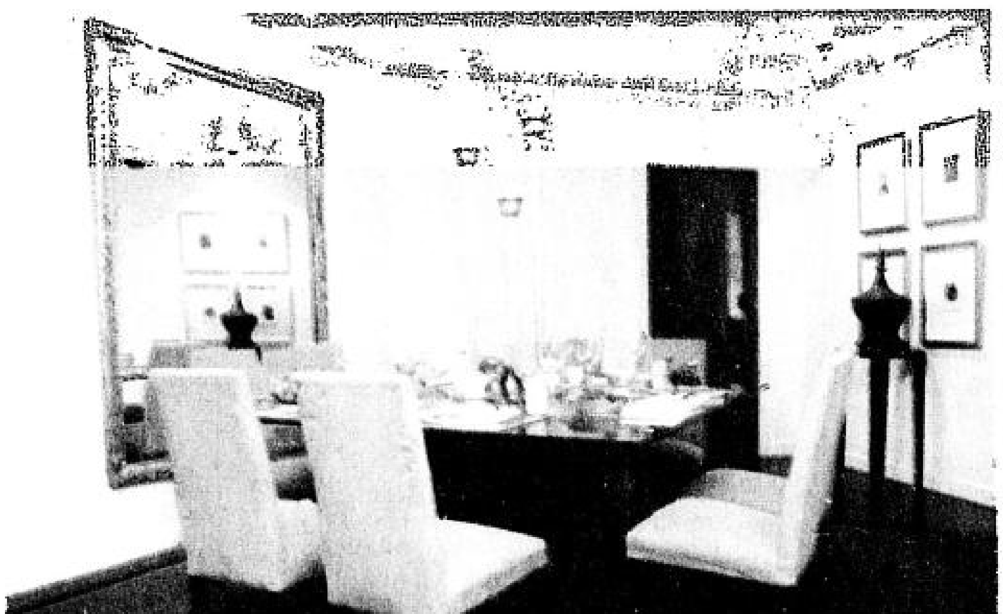
"Aleth and I came from a smaller apartment," says Jojo. "That's why we're basically 'function-first' persons. Although this condo unit is bigger, we still make use of a lot of cabinets to maintain a semblance of order."

But as the two in-laws have shown, there will always be enough room for the right antique or distressed piece from Asia, whether they go for the incremental or the streamlined look.

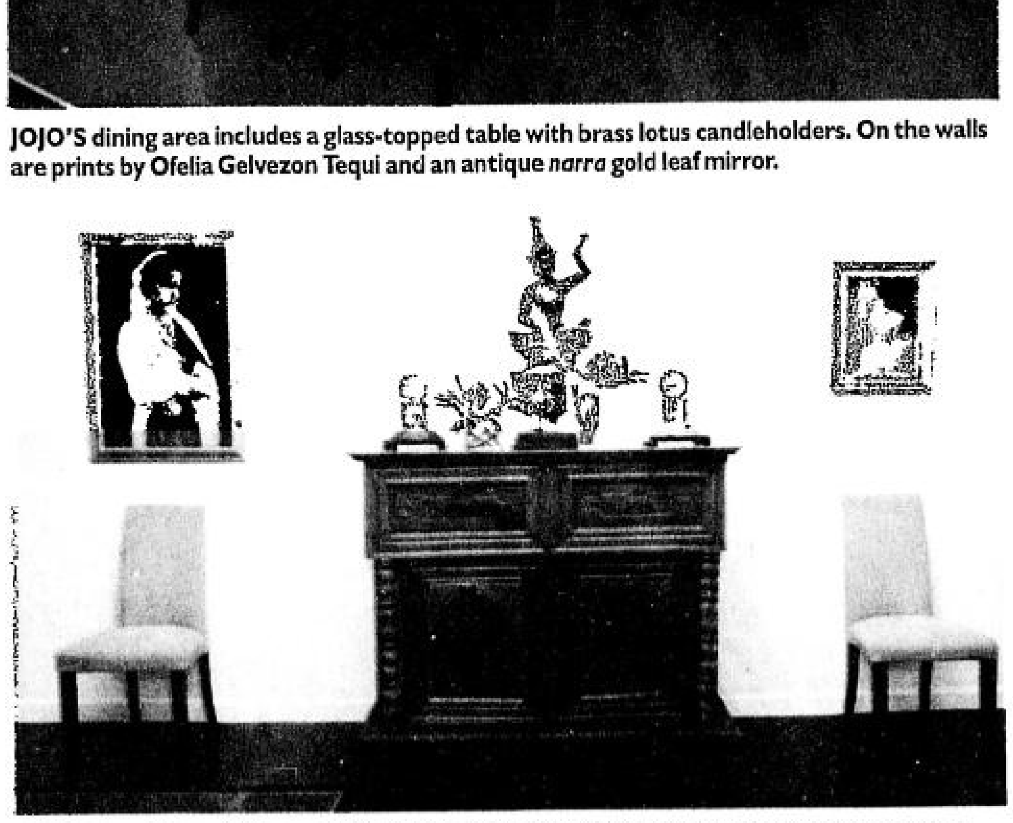
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

JOJO and Aleth Mapa

JOJO'S earthenware by Jon Pettyjohn



JOJO'S dining area includes a glass-topped table with brass lotus candleholders. On the walls are prints by Ofelia Gelvezon Tequi and an antique *narra* gold leaf mirror.



A THAI angel from Chiangmai sits on top of an antique cabinet from Bohol made of *molave* and *balayong*. Painting on the left is a self-portrait by Aleth Ocampo-Mapa, while the one on the right is by Emilio Aguilar Cruz.

They'd rather starve than eat Bt corn

As I write this, the hunger strikers expressing their fear and concern about the genetically modified crop, Bt (for *bacillus thuringiensis*) corn, are still manning their posts, some of them so weak they had to be replaced, at the gates of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

Their fear is based on scientific studies showing that bio-engineered foods like Bt corn have potential environmental risks, food-safety problems and negative socio-economic impact on farmers. The biotech companies developing such food, they say, have not yet addressed these risks to everyone's satisfaction.

We have, on several occasions in the past, written on genetically monitored organisms, or GMOs, as the technology is generally called. But despite calls from various sectors to take a wait-and-see stand on GMOs, the problem persists.

According to Antonio Claparols, regional councilor of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), president of the Ecology Society of the Philippines (ESP), and a striker himself, they will continue to protest indefinitely.

They have met with DA representatives but to date, nothing has changed. Agriculture officials, it seems, favor the sale of Bt corn.

It would be ironic if Bt corn is released to the local market when right in the United States, where biotech companies are based, several groups are saying "No" to it.

Larry Mitchell, president of the American Corn Growers Association (Acga), in a letter to Christine Todd Whitman of the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Program, expressed his group's concern about the impact of genetically engineered Bt corn in the market. He said farmers should decide for themselves whether they wanted to plant Bt corn varieties or not.

No official endorsement

This policy, he said, also meant "not encouraging biotech companies, other farmers, commodity organizations or even federal or state governments, to promote or endorse policies that allow genetically engineered corn varieties to alter or modify the entire US corn crop in the kind of out-of-control manner that exists today through pollen drift and seed contamination."

Mitchell pointed to the glaring negative impacts already showing up: one, the extremely low prices of corn at the farm level; two, the major global market disruptions for US corn growers caused by pollen drift and cross-pollination contamination of non-genetically engineered or non-GMO corn fields.

The problem was aggravated because current policy allowed a minority portion of the crop to jeopardize markets and prices for the total crop. Mitchell said this was "unacceptable" since 75-80 percent of the total US corn crop was planted to non-GMO varieties.

Another environmental group that added its voice to the outcry was the Sierra Club, the oldest conservation group in the US. Its original aim was to save the Sierra Nevada Mountains but it expanded its tasks to include other areas and other green causes.

In a letter to Philippine Secretary of Agriculture Luis Lorenzo, Sierra Club vice president Richard A. Cellarius pointed out three important matters: that there was abundant evidence of the toxic effects of genetically engineered plants on the environment; that they impacted negatively on non-target endangered species, like some species of butterflies; and that there was widespread application of genetically patented seeds with accompanying restrictions on how they were to be managed.

Dangerous

This, said Mitchell, was a dangerous type of privatization of a global agricultural resource. It was, he added, "turning the accumulated wisdom of 10,000 years of agriculture into the intellectual property of multinational corporations who will hold the 'rights' to second and subsequent generations of seeds."

This information is particularly frightening, coming as it does from corporations in a country that likes to call itself "land of the free."

As will be noted, the matter of genetically engineered farming is not just planting corn or soy or other crop by transplanting genes from one variety to another, but rather a more complex one that transcends agriculture and the economy. It could be the first step toward a whole new way of life, that may not exactly be good for everyone.

Filipinos will thus do well to study carefully the pros and cons of the issue. We may find, like the strikers at the agriculture department, that it would be better to go hungry than to eat what could affect us and our children in unpredictable ways.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Hunger strikers protest propagation of genetically modified crop

Real People. True Stories.

"My skin used to be so dry, you could draw a line across it. But after Imedeen, there's no more dryness, just compliments!"

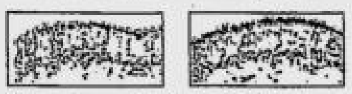
Dr. Daisy Lim-Camitan,
41, Dermatologist &
Clinic owner, Dermgem

As someone whose job is to make others look good, Dr. Daisy knows she has to look good herself. "Patients come to me to look younger. I myself should be the best proof that you don't have to look your age."

With Imedeen, Dr. Daisy has achieved just that. As skin retains its essential moisture, dryness is reduced; in its place you may notice skin more evenly toned, softer and more elastic. "I get a lot of compliments -- people say I look good for my age."

Imedeen is the skin care tablet that helps nourish and revitalize the inner layer of the skin where ageing begins.

"I always tell my patients, 'To look beautiful, one must feel beautiful inside.' Seeing how young I look gives my spirit a different kind of lift. Imedeen does wonders not just for outer beauty, but inner beauty as well. And that's something no facelift can give you."



Ultrasound images of the skin structure: denser structure implies better support and ability to hold moisture

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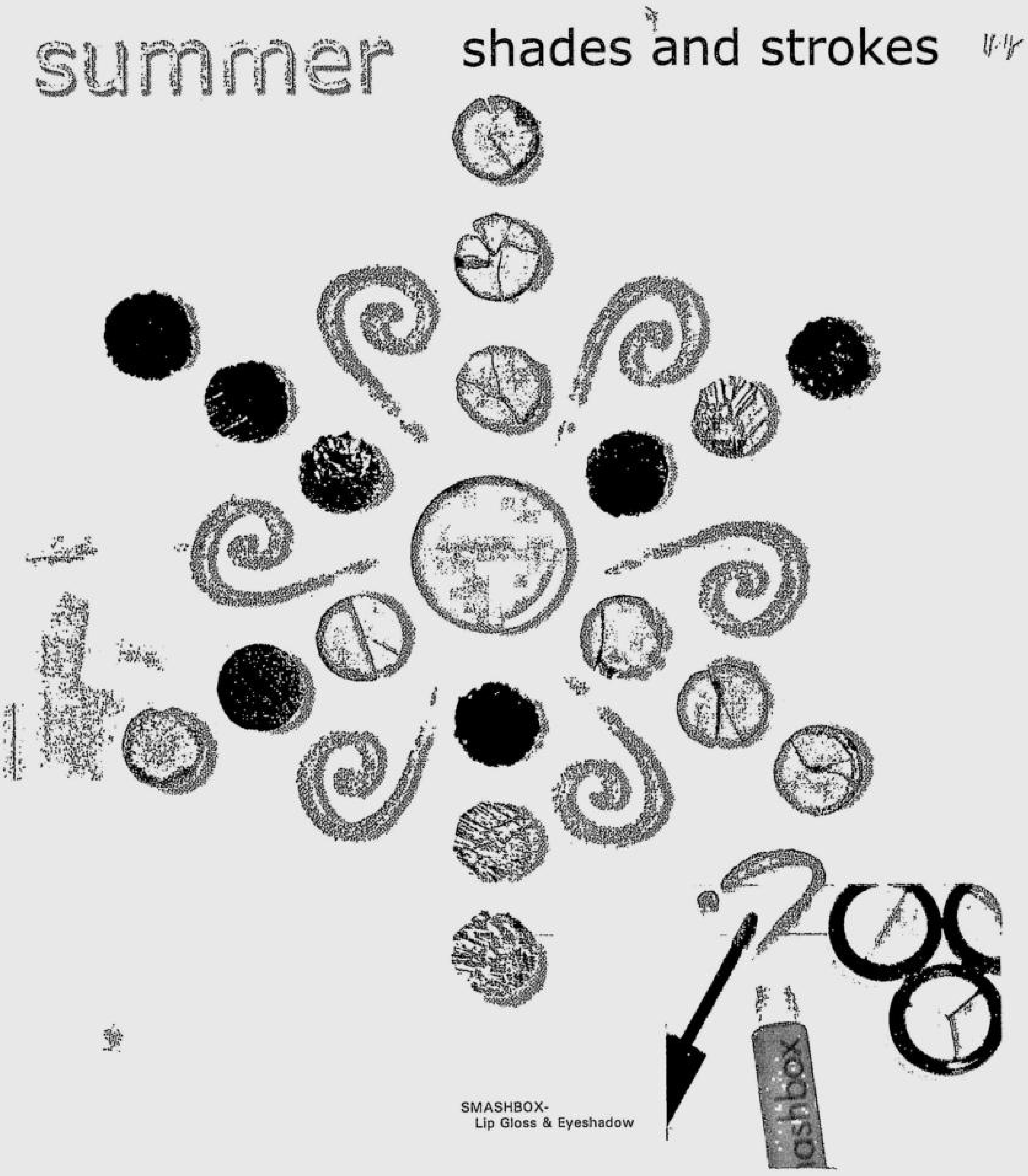

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Beauty bar

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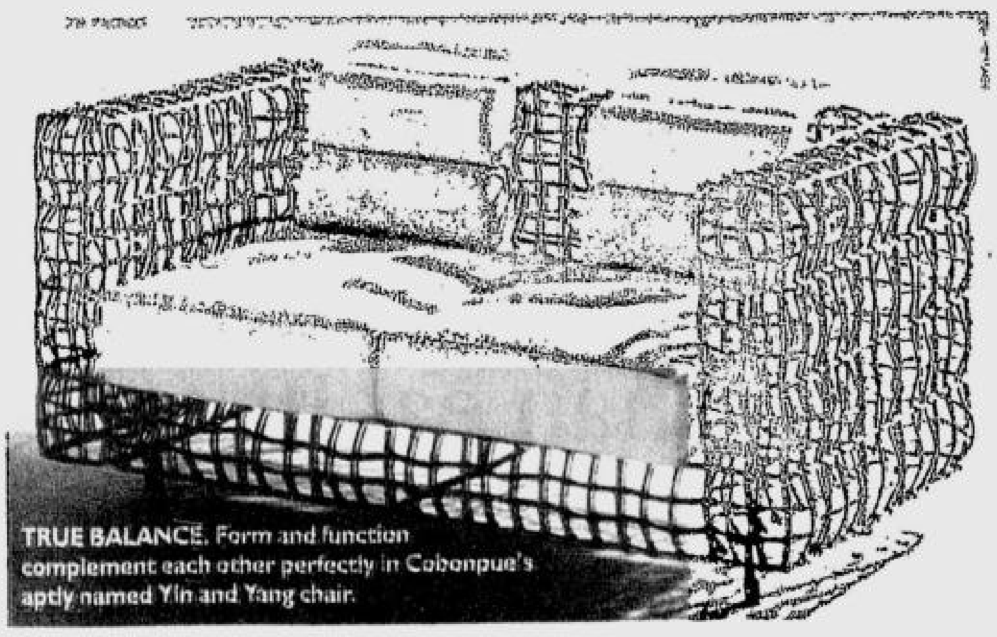
Pinoy designs get Japanese thumbs-up

TOTALLY WIRED. Ann Pamintuan's striking Cocoon Wire Chair offers stylish comfort.

BOUND. Recycled paper sheets are transformed into a functional piece of art by Tes Pasola.



TRUE BALANCE. Form and function complement each other perfectly in Cobonpue's aptly named Yin and Yang chair.

Six designers and a manufacturer receive Japan's Good Design Award

IMPROVE, [illegible] reflects the Japanese attitude toward design. Their drive for harmony, precision and reinvention has paved the way for an exacting and continuing quest for improvement. This makes the recent selection of six Filipino designers and one Filipino manufacturer for the Good Design Award (G-Mark) during the inaugural Good Design Award Asean Selection Program a truly noteworthy milestone.

Jointly organized by the Japan Industrial Design Promotion Organization (Jidpo) and the Asean Japan Center (AJC), the G-Mark is Japan's only comprehensive design evaluation system.

The introduction of the G-Mark Award Asean Selection Program is a vital tool for heightening appreciation for exemplary design and promoting the region's products in Japan's discriminating market.

The program attracted 160 applicants from eight countries. Out of the 44 entries considered worthy of the G-Mark distinction, eight were from the Philippines—a tribute to the caliber of Philippine design.

Ann Pamintuan (The Gilded Expressions), Milo Naval (Evolve Designs), Tes Pasola (Mind Masters Inc.), Kenneth Cobonpue (Interior Crafts of the Islands Inc.) and Jean Bautista (Craft Mill Inc.) were singled out for their exceptional product designs.

Robemar Enterprises was cited for its outstanding manufacturing system.

No strangers to the demands of the global market, the winners are seasoned exhibitors of Manila Fame International, the premiere biannual trade show organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem).

Metal cocoon

A comfortable cocoon made of metal, Pamintuan brilliantly reconciles this apparent contradiction with her timeless and sophisticated design.

Inspired by nature and the electroplating of orchid roots for bangles, each striking Cocoon Wire Chair is meticulously welded and hammered by hand to retain its organic look.

Meanwhile, Naval's Wave Daybed is a truly ergonomic creation made from abaca mat weaving that gracefully simulates a mat on the floor effortlessly translating it to furniture. It's a sleek and thoroughly modern take on the traditional chaise lounge.

The James Bound Vases are made from recycled paper sheets bound like a book but fashioned to hold either flowers or votive candles. Each piece is a surefire conversation item that adds character to a room. Pasola aims to "break set givens" through these environment-friendly creations that are a happy mix of utility and playfulness.

Cobonpue was cited for both his Voyage Bed and his Yin and Yang Chair, distinctive pieces made from natural materials such as burl, rattan and abaca.

The cocoon-shaped Voyage bed is an airy sanctuary that positively beckons one to dream away. A prime example of superb construction, the Yin and Yang chair is a study in contrasts—delicate strength and simple sophistication—that displays the designer's masterful grasp of structure, form, patterns and combinations.

Stylish and well-made photo frames and storage boxes scored twin accolades for Bautista. Crafted from recycled paper combined with woven *buntal* fibers and faux leather, these choice items are ideal containers for treasured keepsakes.

Proficient

An unparalleled degree of customization and proficient delivery services earn Robemar Enterprise a G-Mark for its manufacturing system.

A leading name in stainless gifts, houseware and flatware, Robemar has carved its own niche in a highly competitive and demanding market through its distinct ability to combine disparate materials into globally acceptable products.

Instituted in 1957 by Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the G-Mark System is applicable to all fields of design, making it unparalleled in scale and longevity.

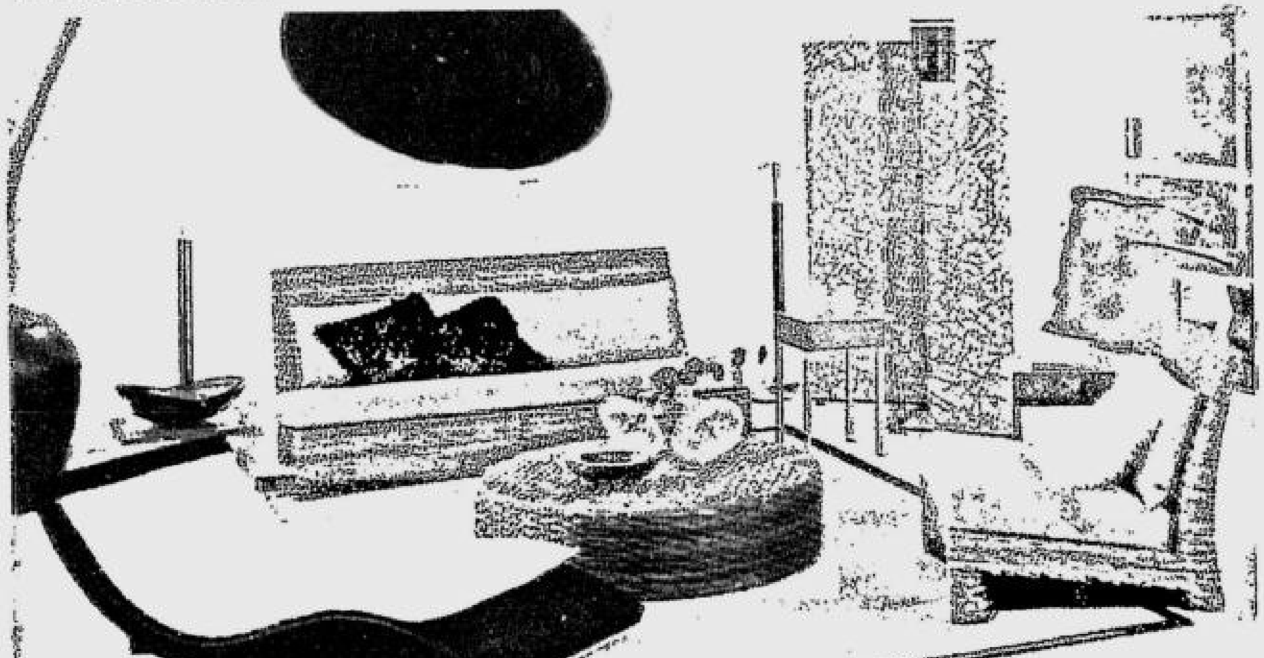
Award categories include product design, architecture and environmental design, communication design and new frontier design.

Selected entries do not compete directly with each other in the Good Design Award system. Rather, they are judged on how well they enhance the quality of daily living and contribute to the future of the design industry.

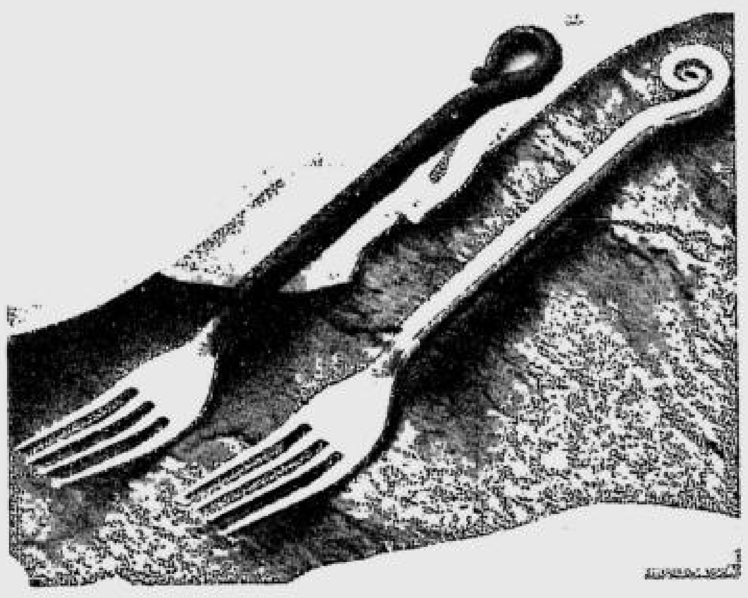
An entry is judged based on three questions: Is it a good design? Is it a superior design? Is it a design that breaks new ground for the future?

Philippine designers and manufacturers engaged in the production of furniture and furnishings, tableware and kitchenware, daily necessities, and food packaging can submit entries to the Good Design Award Asean Selection Program.

Call the Citem office at 833-1265 or 831-2201 local 226 or e-mail softgoods@citem.com.ph.



INVITING INNOVATION. The Wave Daybed in abaca mat weave by Milo Naval makes for an irresistable chaise lounge.



TIMELESS ELEGANCE. Robemar's Unica stainless flatware are products of an outstanding manufacturing system.

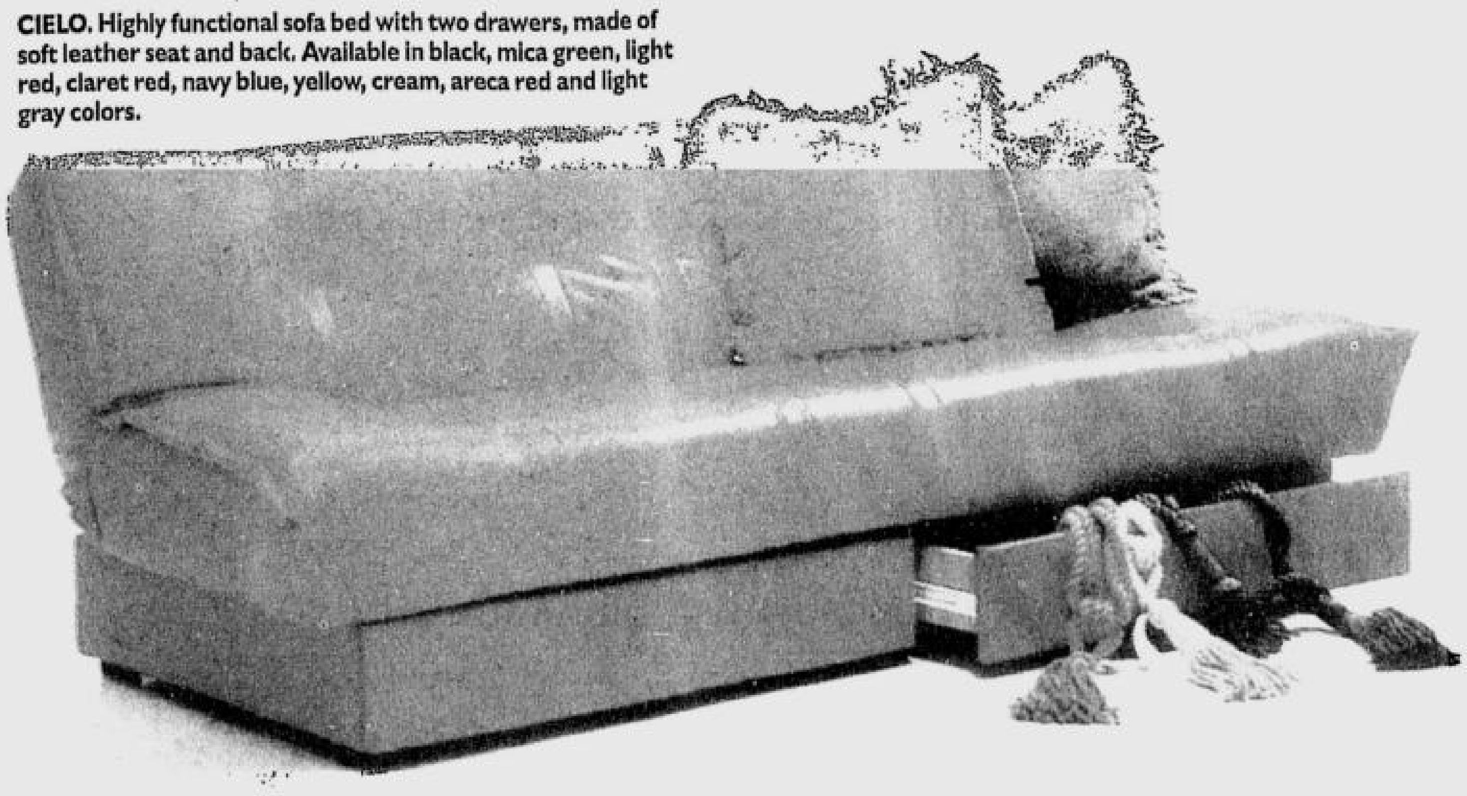
Big sale on trendy furniture and home décor

ON THE HEELS of its successful Mother's Day sale, Play & Display offers its Japanese-inspired home pieces at a 10-percent discount until May 18. The prices of new leather sofas are also down by 30 percent.

Tables and chairs are selling 10-15 percent off their usual prices, while selected items like Swiss beds, fabric beds, jazz wardrobe and cabinets are available at half-price.

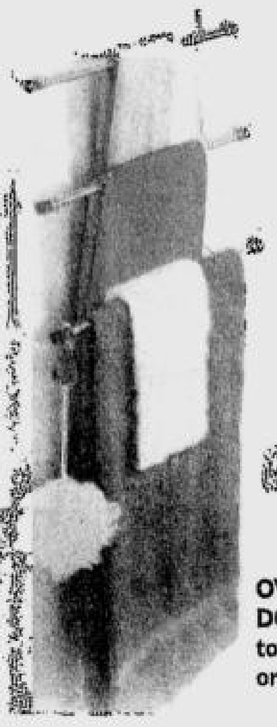
Other price slash-downs: Swiss wardrobe, 30-percent off; metal beds, Agatha and Fuji lines, 20 percent; accessories and home decor like terra-cotta jars, glassware, carpets and rugs, beddings, dinnerware, curtains, and others, 5-50 percent off.

Play & Display stores are located in Glorietta, Megamall, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza, The Power Plant, Festival Mall, Alabang Town Center, SM City North, SM City Pampanga, Pavilion and 6797 Ayala Avenue.

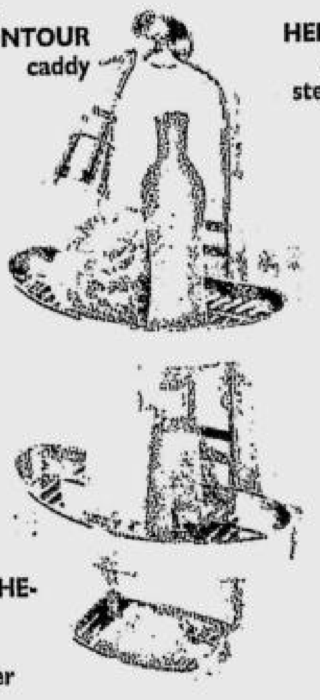


CIELO. Highly functional sofa bed with two drawers, made of soft leather seat and back. Available in black, mica green, light red, claret red, navy blue, yellow, cream, areca red and light gray colors.

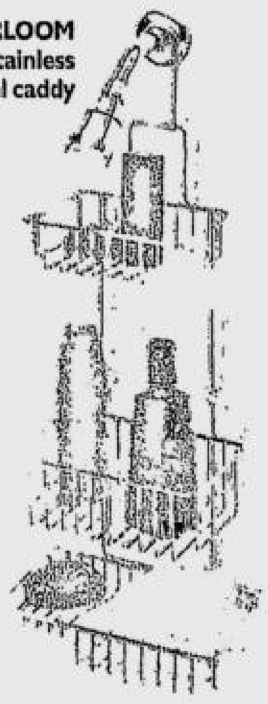
OSAKA. This Japanese-inspired design bed set is a print combination of red, light gray and white.



OVER-THE-DOOR towel organizer



CONTOUR caddy

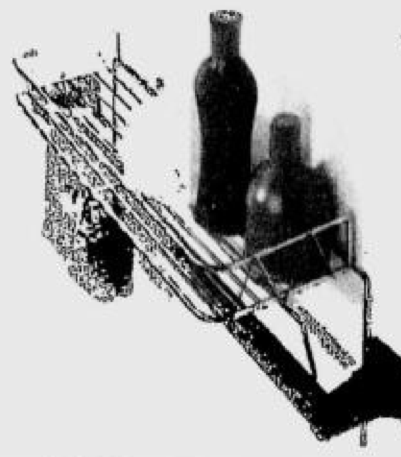


HEIRLOOM stainless steel caddy

Make your bathroom neat and stylish

MAKEROOM introduces new offerings for your bathroom to make it orderly and stylish. These include Towel Bar Shelf, Over the Door Towel Organizer, Dual Caddy and Contour Caddy. The Regent Chrome Collection, Crescent Caddy Organizer, Heirloom Stainless Steel Caddy have bathroom organizers with deep shelves and side soap dish that has a towel bar feature and hook.

Portable Storage Center provides convenient bath storage with adjustable baskets. The Fold-Away Towel Organizer has a pivoting shelf for large towels. MakeRoom outlets are located at Rockwell Power Plant Mall and Greenbelt Mall.



TOWEL Bar Shelf

MOISSANITE PHILIPPINES' 5th Anniversary Sale!

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Couple finds seminar weekend fruitful

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Thank you for writing about the Worldwide Marriage Encounter. My husband Steve and I attended it last April 4 to 6, and it not only gave us an opportunity to spend [time] together, it also gave us the opportunity to look deeply into our relationship with each other and God.

Steve and I were most grateful for the communication technique that allowed us to explore important facets and areas in our relationship in the spirit of love and understanding and to honestly share our feelings, fears and priorities. [This] would never have happened without the WME experience.

It was really a unique approach in revitalizing our marriage, and I can say it was a weekend meant to be spent with the one we love most.

MARIECOR

Thank you for sharing what the weekend did for you at the Manresa Retreat House in Quezon City. I'm sure other married couples with some problems in their lives will consider attending the same after reading your letter.

Those interested may contact Fr. Dave Clay at 0918-9020511, San and Marin Uy at 736-0218 or 256-5275 to78.

ME also for priests

In your column last month you mentioned the Worldwide Marriage Encounter and [how it] helped married couples. Please allow me to add that WME is also intended for priests and religious.

I would like to share how WME was also helpful for me as a priest. The church's position clearly states that priesthood, or the sacrament of holy orders, like the sacrament of marriage, is a sign of Christ's love for the church. And the importance of the church hierarchy being closely linked with God's people in solidarity with the community was strongly emphasized in Vatican II, which defined the Church as a "community of faith, hope and love."

WME offers opportunities for priests and couples to work together by sharing and exchanging insights through their intersacramental journey. The benefits of the relationship have been outlined in numerous sharings of WME priests and couples. Both of them come to realize the beauty of the other sacrament only after involvement in WME and ecclesiastical relationships.

Many times, couples (that get to be close to their) priests were brought back to the parish. Many experiencing couples and their families in a close relationship have given me valuable lessons in leading His people, and the weekend activities have helped me strengthen my relationship with God.

I have to admit that sometimes I tend to understand my priesthood as only my obligation to serve God, and people, priesthood for me is just a series of functions: KBL (*kasal, binyag, libing*). But working closely with people reminded me that priesthood was not an obligation or function because of my ordination. I came to realize that priesthood was also a vocation to establish a lasting relationship between priest/myself and parishioners/members of the body of Christ. The quality of my service to the church and the people was deepened as I faithfully did my obligations as a priest... thus, I was able to establish good and lasting relationships with the people I served. It made my priesthood more meaningful and fulfilling.

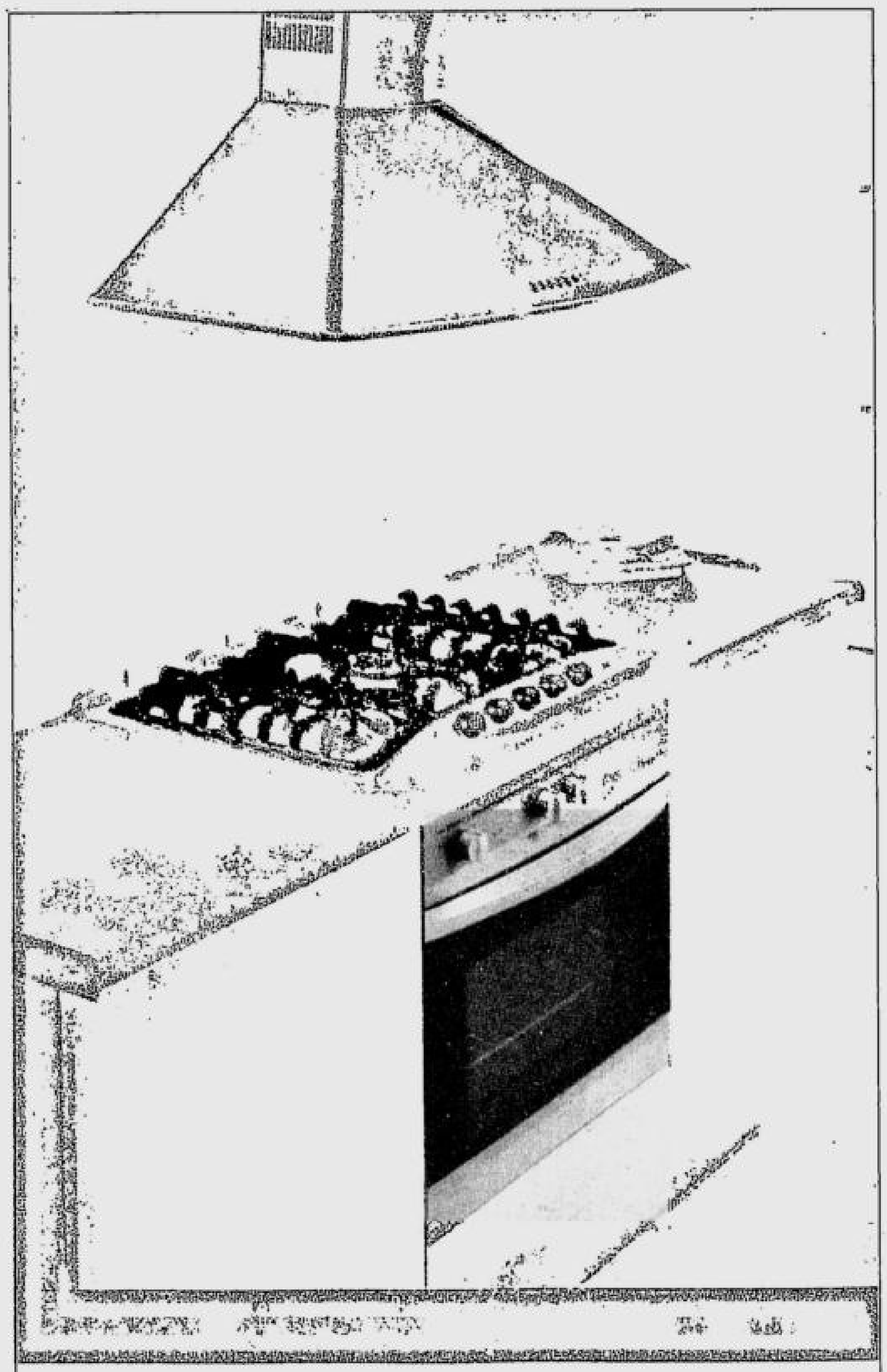
There are more wonderful discoveries along the journey which my fellow priests, brothers, religious men and women will experience in the WME weekend.

Thank you for allowing me to express all these.

FR. YOHANES LAKA

Thank you also for your thoughtfulness. Readers who may wish to get in touch with him can call 741-1569 or 0916-3947006.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City



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Pinoy music goes 'Bath and Beyond'

THE BRITISH Council and The Podium team up to present "Bath and Beyond," a world music festival weekend and exhibit, to celebrate this year's Bath International Music Festival in the UK, which opens today.

While Bath is a major tourist destination in southwest England because of its splendid Roman ruins, Georgian architecture, and antiques, it also attracts tourists from all over the globe in May for its music festival.

Now on its 45th year, the festival celebrates today's adventurous and richly diverse music life expressed in classical, contemporary, early jazz, world and other genres. Its World Music Weekend, a popular component of the festival, is a crowd drawer.

As festival director Tim Joss explains, "The 2003 music showcase aims to free audiences from what is known to be good for them—being risk-averse and preoccupied with measuring things. It will embrace instead the experimental, the fantastical, the humorous, and the extreme."

"Bath and Beyond," which is in cooperation with Smart, captures this spirit with a world music festival until May 18.

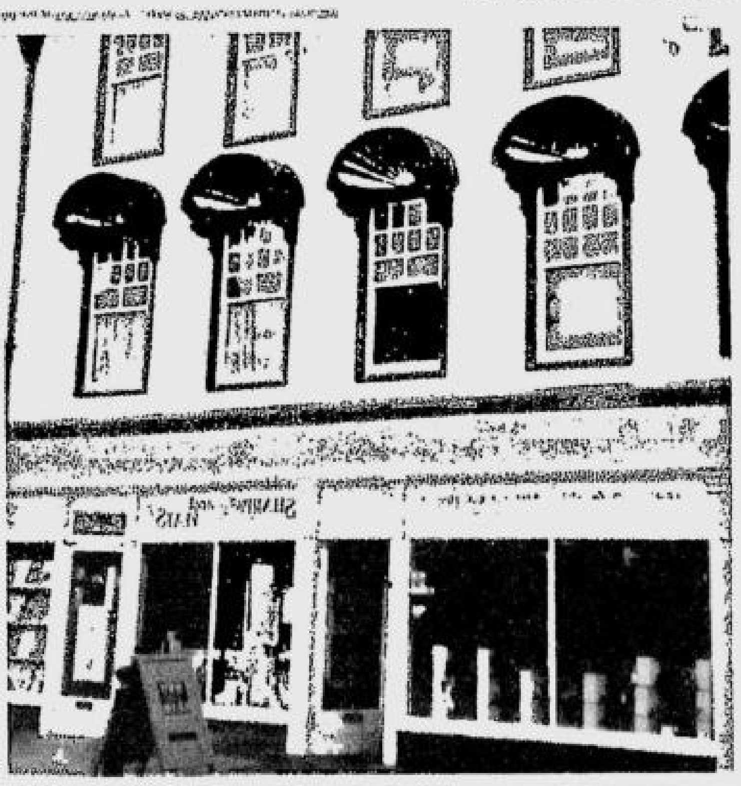
Topbilling the festival are Pinikpikan, Bo Razon and Puro Ritmo, today; Grace Nono and the Tao Music Ensemble on May 17; and Cynthia Alexander on May 18. All performances will take place in The Podium's 2/L Activity Center.

Pinikpikan has produced an incredible fusion of Filipino music, rock and jazz. Christened by painter Ben Cabrera after an impromptu jazz session at the Baguio Arts Festival in 1989, the group earned its reputation for subtle and ethereal improvisations mixed with a cacophony of sensual and earthy drumbeats in a course of a single song.

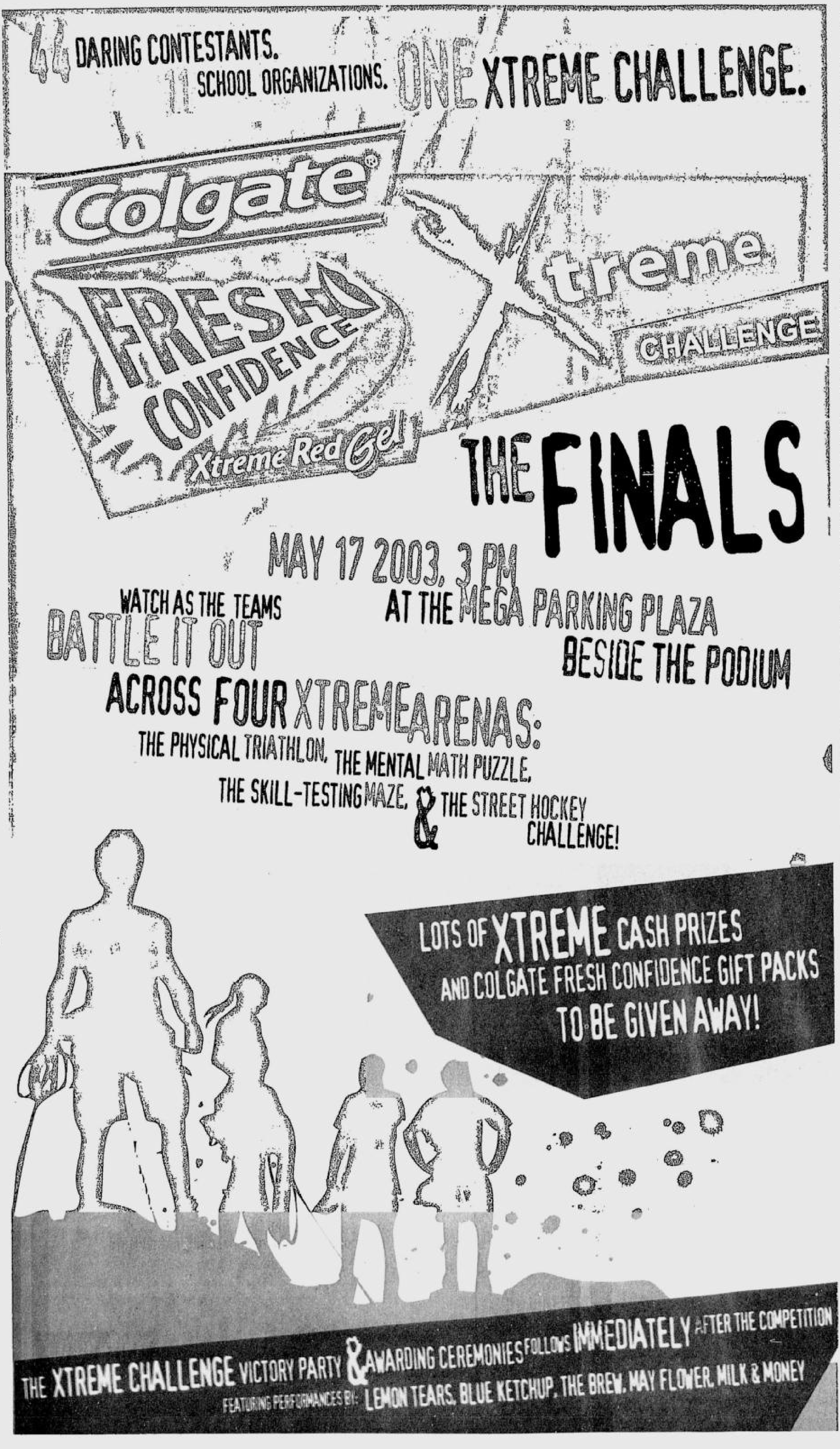
Nono, who represented the Philippines in last year's Diaspora Music Festival in London, is best known for her raw, deep voice—rooted in the earth like the lush green bamboo in her songs. Combining indigenous folk instruments from various tribes with complex, passionate arrangements and primeval choruses that have become her trademark, her work has pushed the boundaries of cross cultural fusion.

Alexander mixes modern and indigenous music. For this performance, she will present an eclectic array of instrumentation such as open-tuned guitars, Indian percussion, Manguindanacan gamelans, South American rhythms, Middle Eastern dumnecks, as well as the fretless bass, and contemporary drum kit.

"Bath and Beyond" will also pay tribute to this historic city with an exhibit on Bath's most fascinating landmarks until May 20.



THE FINE ART OF SHOPPING. Bath's reputation for its specialty shops and fine shopping was established in Georgian times and remains true to this day.



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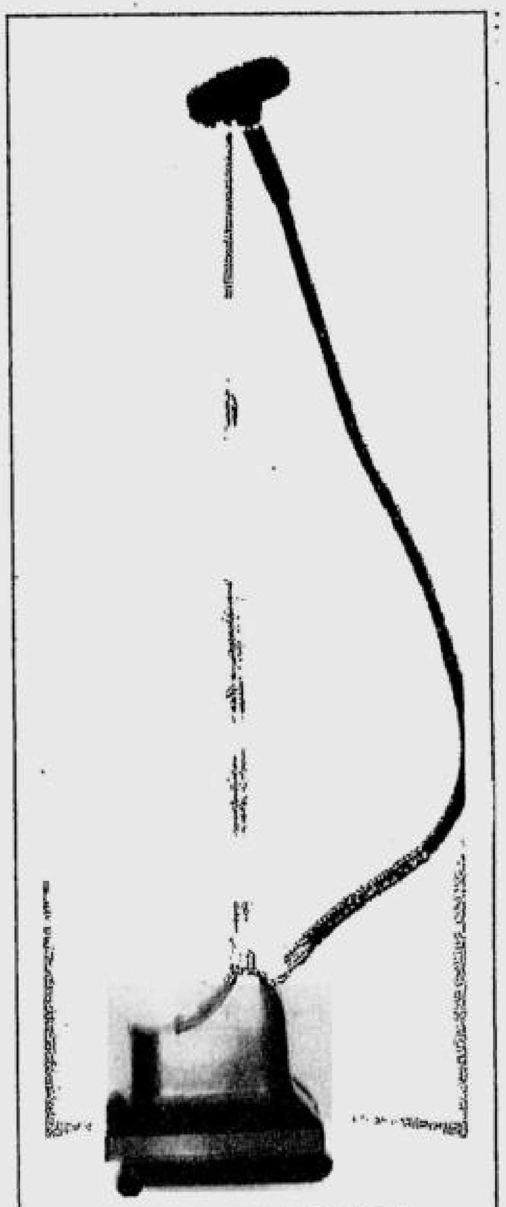
Orchid culture seminar

VANDAS, belonging to the Orchidaceae family, will be among the species to be discussed in a three-day seminar workshop on orchid culture under the auspices of the Philippine Orchid Society Inc. This will be held May 21-23 at UP Balay Internasyonal (Balay Kalinaw), along Guerrero Street, Pook Dagohoy, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

Speakers are Dr. Vicente Saplala, Raymundo Ong, Ponchit Ponce Enrile, Vic Chin Jr., Cora Purificacion, Andres Golamco Jr., Norberto Bautista, Rolita "Baby" Spowart and CV Lazaro.

Lectures include morphology, habit and distribution, nomenclature, general cultural requirements, seedling care, propagation techniques including hybridization, specialized growing methods and pest-disease management.

Call 929-4425 or (0917) 8485468 and look for Jenny Rivera.



FAST IRONING SOLUTION
There's now a simpler way to iron clothes, as well as straighten out clothes, curtains plus other fabrics in a matter of minutes with the Steam Wizard. The Steam Wizard is suitable for fabrics, which when ironed in a normal way, results in scratching.
A free Versa Rack Hanger System will be exclusively available to consumers in leading appliance stores nationwide until June 15. Aside from a six-month financing scheme, the Steam Wizard also offers the BPI 0 percent interest, no downpayment plan for three months' installment. Financing and installment is now available at BuySmart (tel. 640-9765/9816) located at 202 Urbano Velasco Ave., Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

FULL COLOR. Bea is wearing a blue-gray semi-empire cut crepe gown with overlapping front panel. Papier-mâché horse is from Paete, Laguna; painting, "India at Ilustrada" by Ana Fer, 1988. COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE TATLER

What suits Bea Zobel Jr.?

By Anton San Diego

STYLE EYES

FOR this first installment of this new style column, I am honored and elated to have one of the most ebullient, real, down-to-earth, dynamic and beautiful (inside and out) women I know—Bea Zobel Jr.

When she came out in the Philippine Tatler's April 2003 issue with Cesar Montano on the cover, many people asked what the connection was between the two. Were they lovers?

To make a short story even shorter, no, they are not!

Bea is on the board of the Met Museum, a role she cherishes and is enthusiastic about. For that month the Met had an exhibit on Bohol, the booming island in the South where Montano's father is from and which has made the action star its spokesperson. For art's sake, Montano took time off his busy schedule and posed for the Tatler cover story.

This column picks up from the Her World column I did a few years ago but this time, the focus is on style and then some. We also take a peek into the subject's personal choices—from lipstick, jeans to computers or whether they prefer Coke Light or Diet Pepsi.

I hope you will enjoy this opening salvo with this special lady, the first of many stylish and beautiful women in the Metropolis in our Style Eyes.

This is Bea Zobel Jr.'s singular style.

How do you define style?

For me style is understanding oneself: what suits me, fits me well and what I feel comfortable in.

Describe your personal style.

I see myself as traditional in nature but I enjoy exploring new things and I am open to new ideas.

Do you think you are stylish?

I enjoy surrounding myself with beautiful things but I am humbled in Manila when I see so many stylish women.

If you were to make a best-dressed list, who would be on it?

Mia Borromeo, Susan Reyes, Tina Maristela Ocampo, Mercy Tuason, Doodie Tuazon, Dedes Zobel, Margarita Fores, Ana Buenaventura and forgive me for including my family but I have to include Lizzie, Kit and Sofia. I love the way they dress, each having their own personality and her own chic style.

Who are your favorite local/ international designers?

Inno Sotto, Joe Salazar, Tom Ford, Balenciaga, Carolina Herrera and Pucci

If you had a makeover, whose style would you emulate?

Rania of Jordan, Elle Macpherson and my sister Sofia Elizalde .

What did you wear on your wedding day?

Duchesse satin, long white gown with long sleeves and I had a headdress of flowers with a long tulle veil, V-neck and rushed at the waist. I don't know, with my terrible description my dress sounds awful, but actually I don't cringe when I see my old photographs of my wedding day! My dress was rather nice and I think I would wear it again today!

If you could have access to anyone's wardrobe, whose would it be?

Definitely Rania's but I would have to lose 30 kilos first.

What has been your biggest fashion faux pas?

Must I go through this humiliation and remember the time I had a big bow tie around my neck? Or the time I left a fake nail planted on a man's hand after a handshake, or... must I go on?

What is on your wish list right now?

Sandals that wrap around my ankles, Kate Spade flat sandals with beads, and a Rafe Totengco bag.

Which era would you have wanted to live and dress in?

Toward the end of the 19th century, the time of the *ilustrados*. I am nostalgic for that era when I look at the Simeon Flores portraits at the Metropolitan Museum.

For comments please e-mail asd_world@hotmail.com

CHIC CHART

Beauty products

Shampoo/Conditioner: Ivory Shampoo and Conditioner
Toothpaste: Close Up
Soap: Neutrogena/ Fresh
Scent/Perfume: Jo Malone (London)

Makeup

Lipstick: Clinique
Moisturizer: Garnier Synergie
Blush: Lancôme
Foundation: Nars
Eye Shadow/Mascara: Lancôme
Sunscreen: Lancaster

Clothes:

Jeans: Earl, Sevens
T-shirt: Gap
Pajamas: Bonsoir Catalogue
Lingerie: Natori/ Victoria's Secret, great color and sexy lingerie

Accessories:

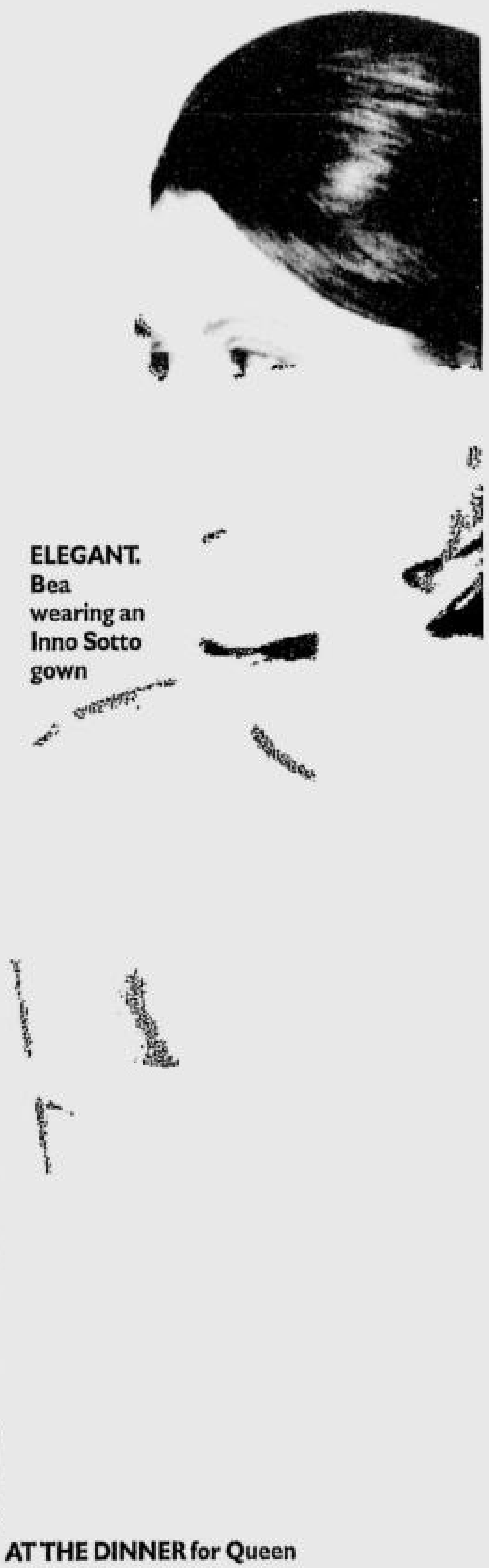
Bag: Pin Guingona
Shoes: Manolo Blahnik
Sneakers: Puma

Others:

Mobile Phone: Globe
Bottled water: Hidden Springs, Viva
Watch: Technomarine, Swatches—I love Virgie Ramos.
Computer: IBM
Soda: Coke Light
Burger: Burger King
Beach or mountains?
Beach
Vogue, In Style, Wall Paper, or Vanity Fair? All... I have subscribed to all of them.

IN A CASUAL MOOD. Top by Caroline Charles of London

ON THE COVER. Wearing a black chiffon column gown with alternating black and white silk organza detail, photographed here with Cesar Montano. COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE TATLER



ELEGANT. Bea wearing an Inno Sotto gown

THE MET'S MUSE. Wearing a Joe Salazar chartreuse silk chiffon gown with spaghetti straps and pleat detail on bustier, taken at the Museum. COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE TATLER

AT THE DINNER for Queen Sofia at the Met Museum. Photographed with Met director Ino Manalo, Queen Sofia of Spain, President Arroyo and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. Bea's gown by Pepito Albert

12:00 noon.

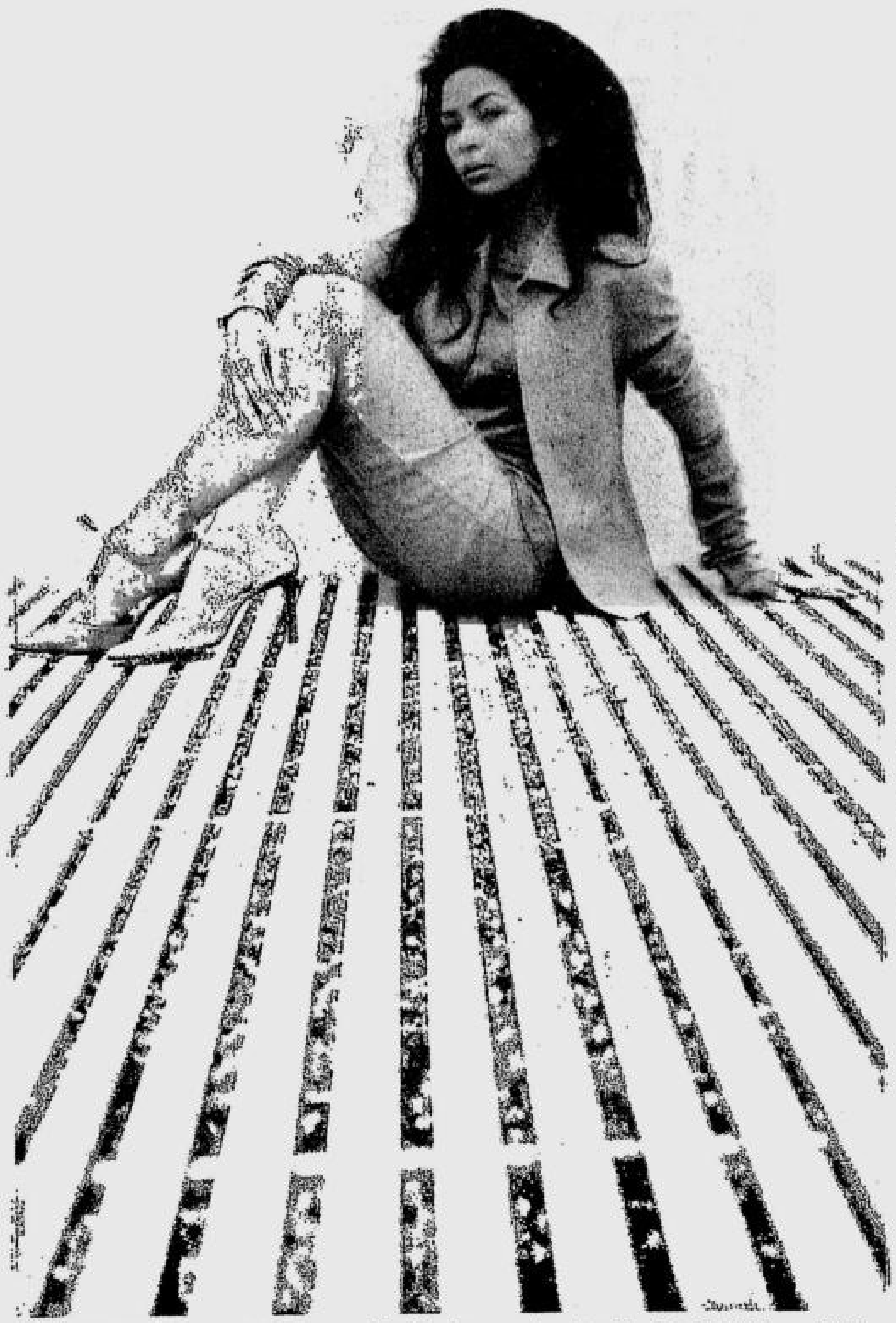
Perfect time to join her shopping for those shoes she absolutely must have.

You know it could take a while for her to choose.

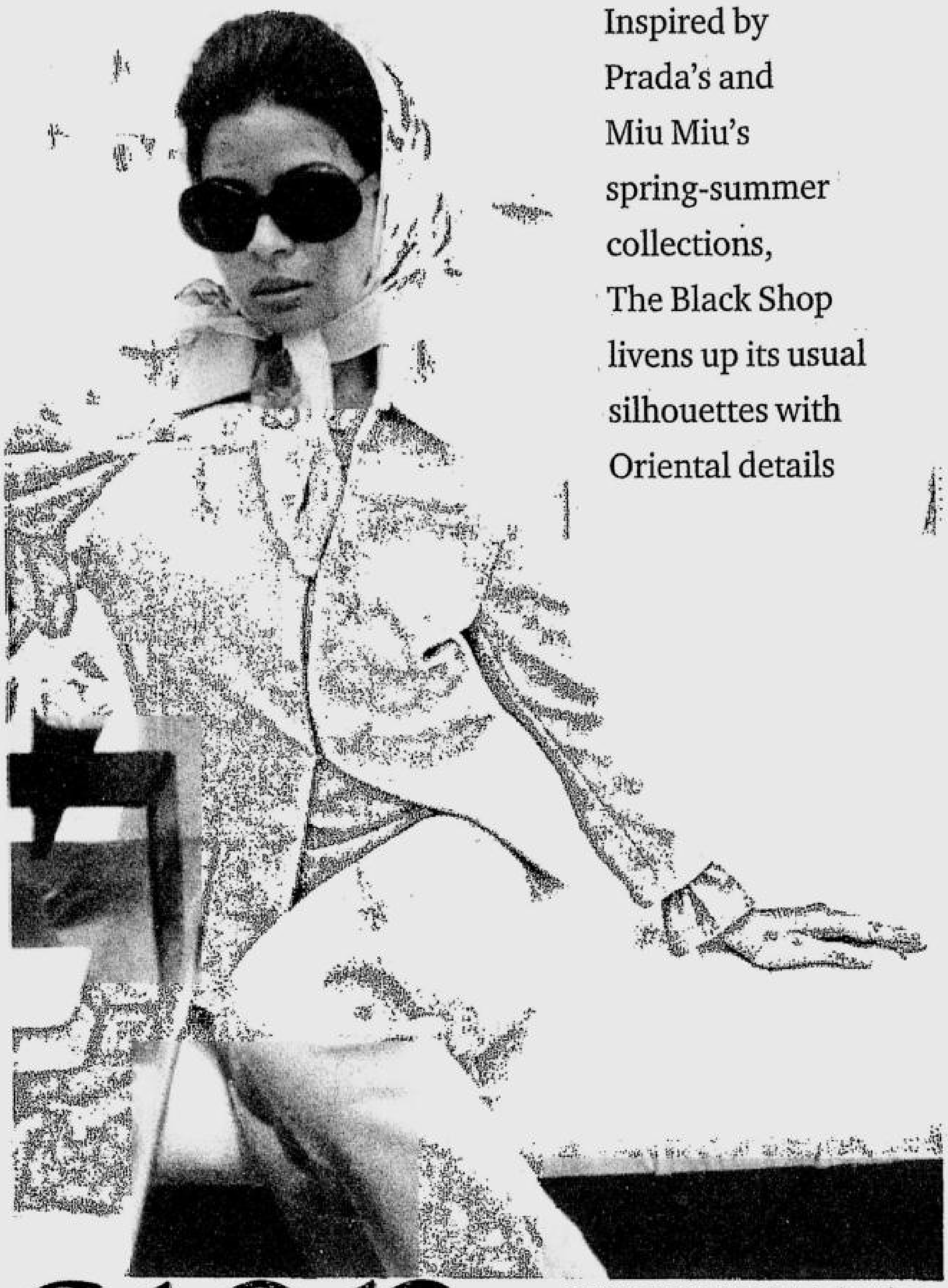
Is this how you spend your idle time?

(While she tries them all on, why not go online and see if the Los Angeles Lakers can make it beyond the NBA semi-finals?)

Inspired by Prada's and Miu Miu's spring-summer collections, The Black Shop livens up its usual silhouettes with Oriental details



SAFARI CHIC. Orange tights liven up khaki culottes and waisted jacket. Khaki blazer, P949; khaki shirt, P699



HAMPTONS REVISITED. Pastel colors take on a '60s summer feel. Light violet blazer, P949; long sleeves blouse, P849; ladies pants, P799

Fusion passion

THE BLACK Shop's newest summer offering is a subtle play on modern Japanese aesthetics fused with details from pop culture.

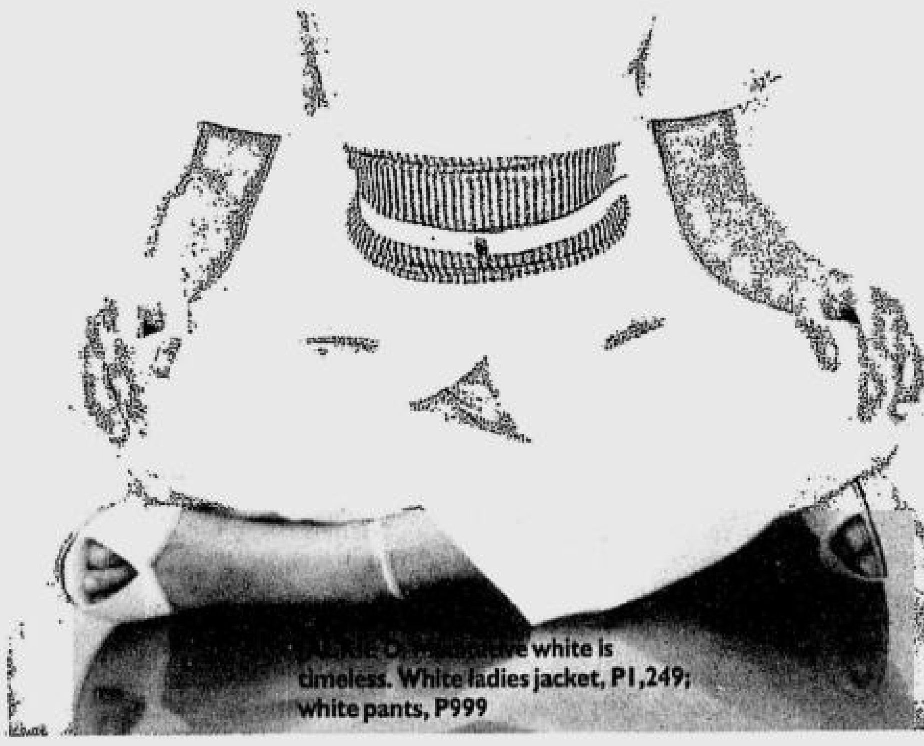
Taking its cue from Miu Miu and Prada's Spring-Summer collection for this year, traditional Japanese staples, such as the obi, are combined with colored tights, pulled-up collars and big, stylized hair. The resulting looks are reminiscent of different pop icons throughout history, from Brigitte Bardot to Jackie O.

Strip off the couture-influenced styling and the Black Shop's new collection stays true to its usual silhouettes.

Simple cuts in solid, complementary colors (this season's colors are pinks, fuchsias, bright greens and a lot of white) appeal to a woman's classic sensibilities and invite practical mix-and-match, while fashionable. Orient-inspired accessories bid for more adventurous dressing.

With Black Shop, versatility is the key, and the end result is always individuality.

Black Shop's newest collection is available in their newest store in Glorietta 4 and at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, SM Annex, North Edsa, SM Manila and SM Megamall.



JACKIE O. [illegible] white is timeless. White ladies jacket, P1,249; white pants, P999

MESSAGE IN THE BOTTLES. Black pants, P999 and a peek-a-boo lingerie are all sashed up. With fuchsia polo, P749; and ladies jacket, P1,399

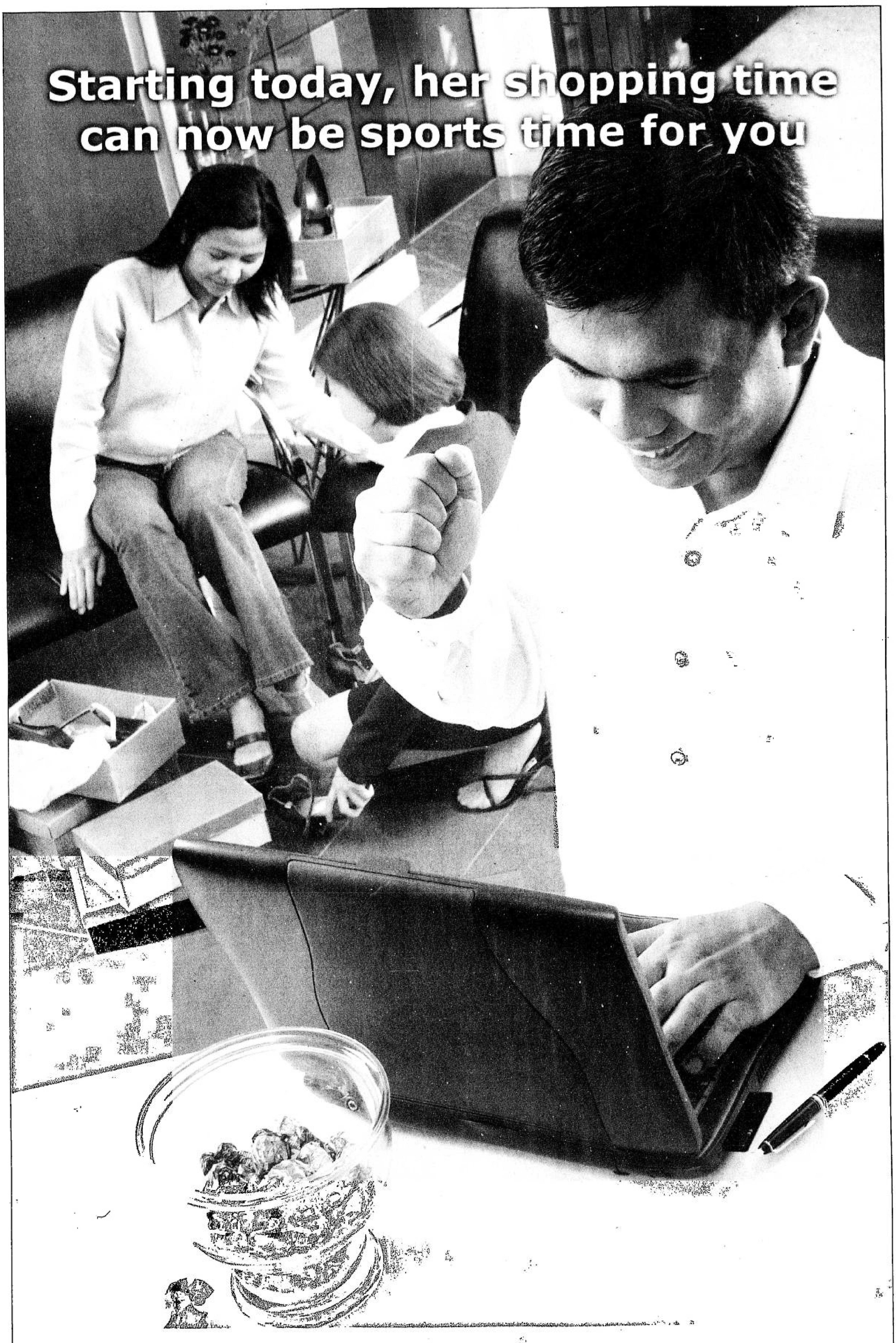
BARBARELLA GOES JAPANESE. An obi adds life to white pants and green chiffon. Apple green long sleeves polo, P749, white pants, P999

HIP TO BE SQUARE. Checkered prints and a pulled-up collar make a contemporary Bardot. Checkered blouse, P559; ladies pants, P999; red leather belt, P349

PRETTY IN PINK. Peacoats and pink are an unbeatable pair. Trench coat dress, P1,199

MODEL: RISSA SAMSON
CLOTHES: THE BLACK SHOP
MAKE UP: ERIC MANINGAT
LOCATION: O'SAKE RESTAURANT, GLORIETTA 2, RESTAURANT ROW

BEST COPY AVAILABLE


Starting today, her shopping time
can now be sports time for you

GlobeQUEST introduces WIZ.

Wireless Internet Zone is the advanced wireless service that lets you connect to the Internet at ultra-fast broadband speeds--without the wires.

Just park your laptop within any of the WIZ HotSpots in key areas in Metro Manila and other cities nationwide. Then instantly be able to surf your favorite sport site to check-out the latest finals updates while she shops. Yes, innovative WiFi (Wireless Fidelity) technology makes it possible.

Find out how WIZ can suddenly make shopping a win-win situation for both of you. Call 75QUEST and ask about the nearest HotSpot in your area today.

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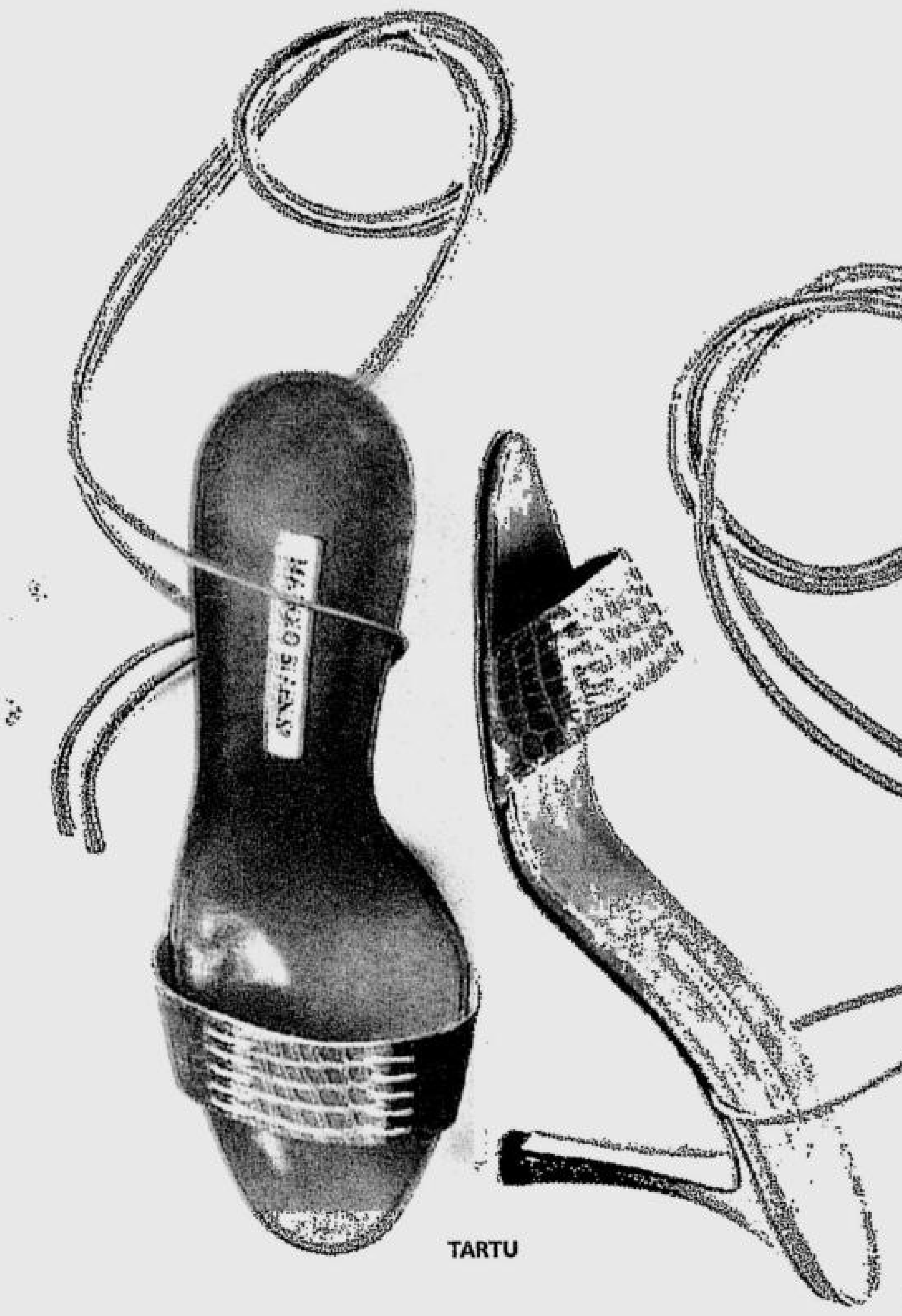
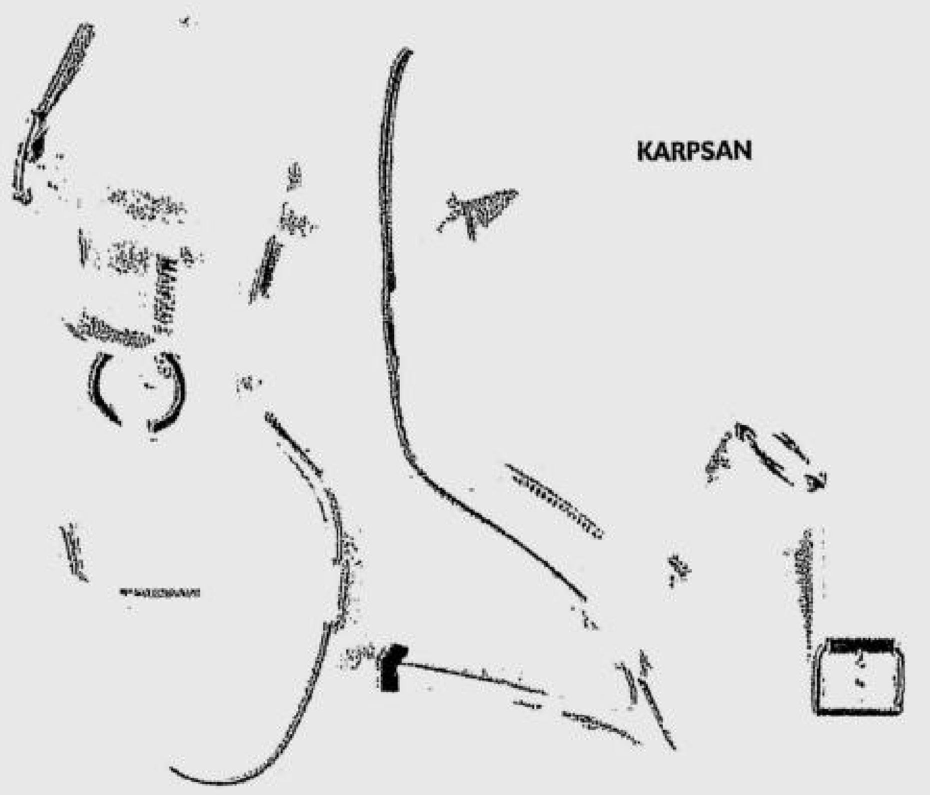


TARTU



KARPSAN

Theatrical shoemaking

NEW offerings by Manolo Blahnik, the former theatrical designer turned master shoemaker, are now available at Wish.

Rich colors, prints and details echo Morocco and other such exotic places and cultures. The new shoes have a very strong Oriental feel in the season of thong slides, strappy heels and wood-accented sexy mules. Turquoise stones appear in pristine white thong heels and crocodile skin comes in three shades for an exquisite pair with criss-cross leather ankle straps.

White floral details make a Manolo for day extra special.

Blahnik, who recently celebrated 30 years in the business of shoemaking, sticks to tradition in his legendary shoe construction.

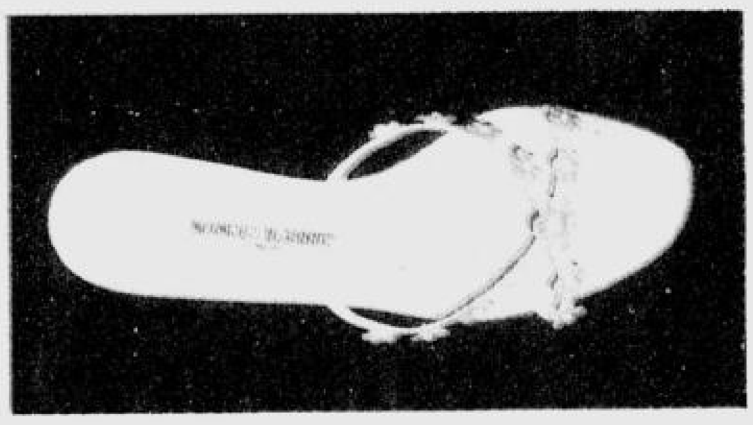
Translating his exotic visions into reality would have been impossible if Blahnik did not know the foundation of his art. The designer can actually carve the form, then cut, mount and stitch the finished product.

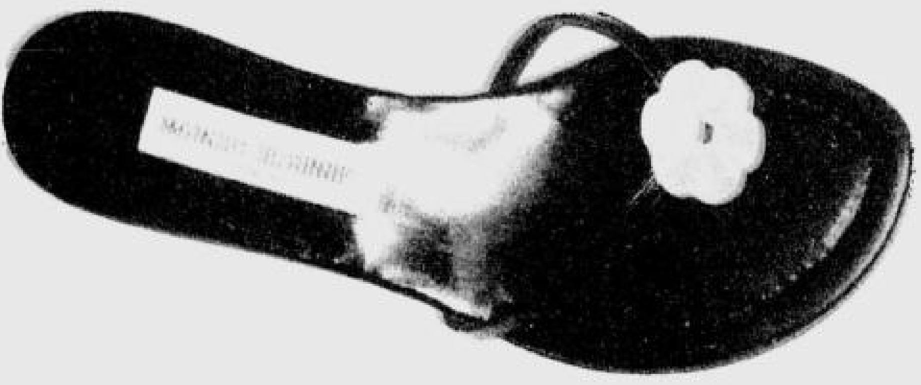
"I spent my first 10 years in the shoe business learning every single aspect of how the shoe is made," he explains. "If you have to learn how to do something you have to do it yourself."

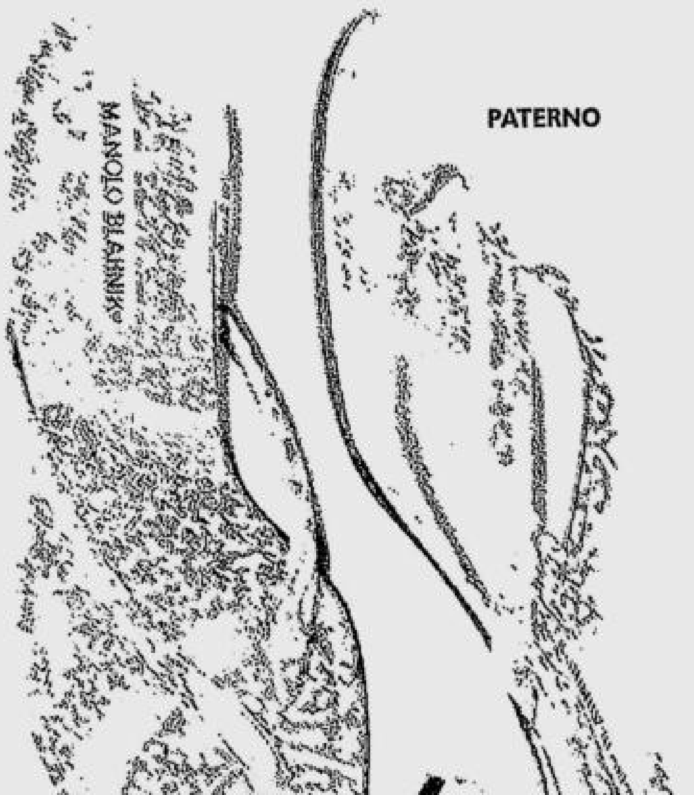
Blahnik's shoes have gone beyond mere fashion essentials to become collectible obsessions. Celebrities from Sarah Jessica Parker to Linda Evangelista, Jennifer Lopez to Heather Locklear are among his clients.

Manolo Blahnik's exclusive home address in the Philippines is Wish, located on the G/F Makati Shangri-La Shopping Arcade, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

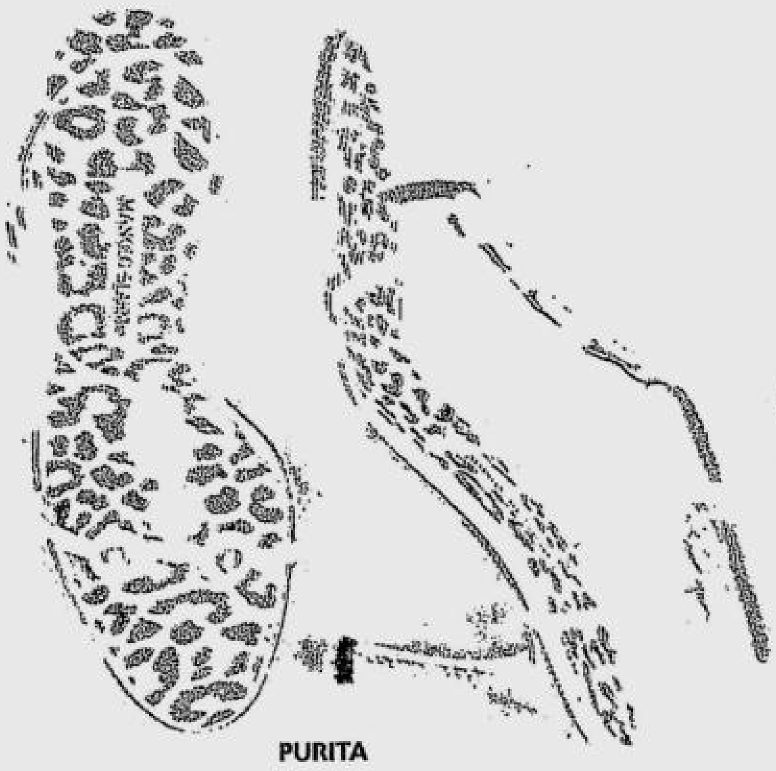
Is there anything sexier than a pair of Monolos? Ask Sarah Jessica Parker or Jennifer Lopez



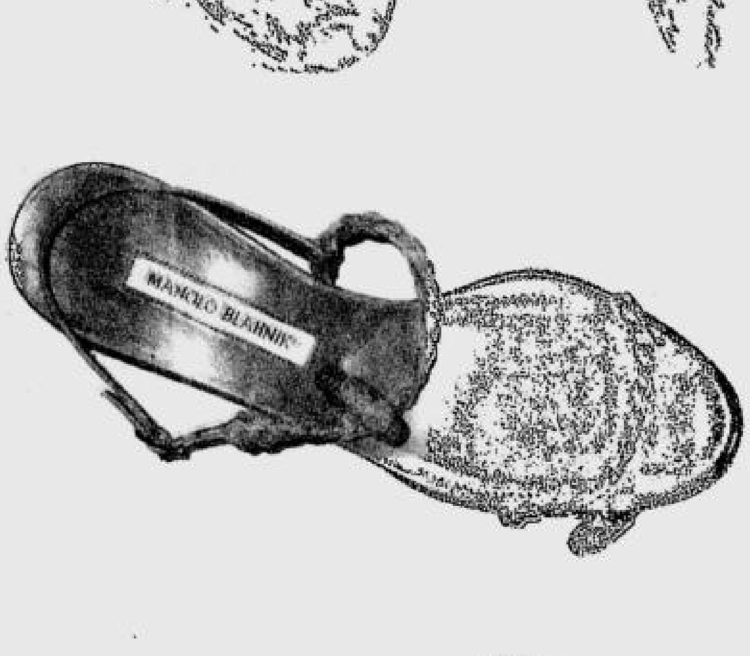




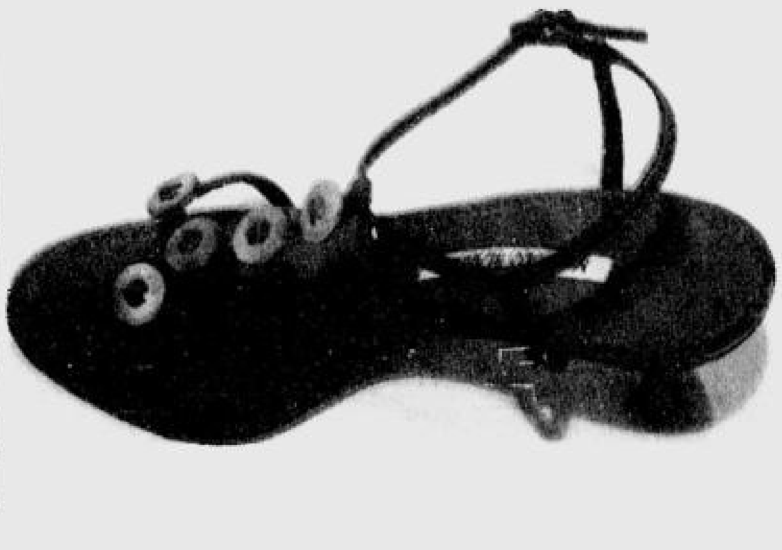
PATERNO



PURITA



RAFCEA



Sunday afternoon. Hangin' out with the guys.

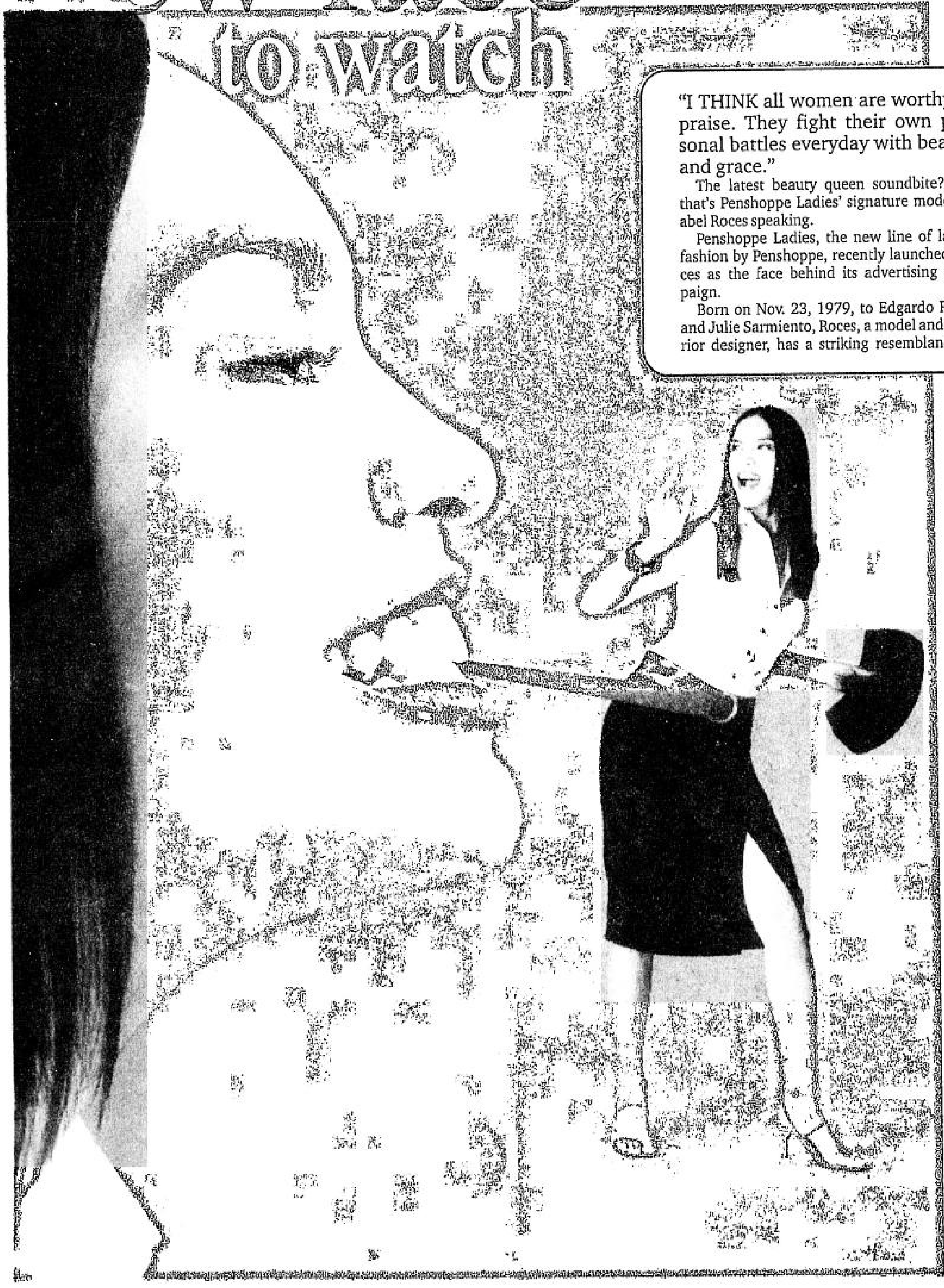
Perfect. Until a text hits from the boss.

He wants to know product inventory and pipeline status by 6:00 sharp.

Is this how you intend to spend your idle time?

(And you only have a couple of hours to check the online inventory system and save your career.)

Isabel Roces: new face to watch



"I THINK all women are worthy of praise. They fight their own personal battles everyday with beauty and grace."

The latest beauty queen soundbite? No, that's Penshoppe Ladies' signature model Isabel Roces speaking.

Penshoppe Ladies, the new line of ladies fashion by Penshoppe, recently launched Roces as the face behind its advertising campaign.

Born on Nov. 23, 1979, to Edgardo Roces and Julie Sarmiento, Roces, a model and interior designer, has a striking resemblance to Academy award-winning actress Angelina Jolie.

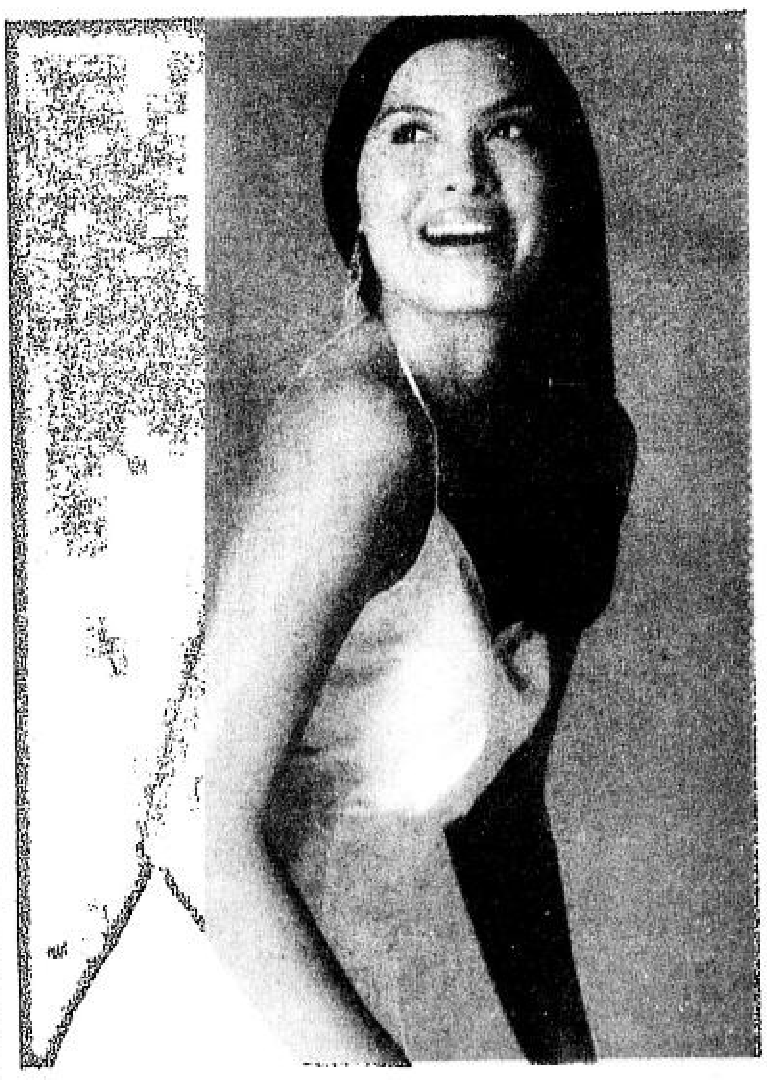
Her looks have made her a top ramp, print and commercial model, but Roces also had the good sense to finish her degree in Interior Design.

"I took up interior design because I'm very fond of aesthetics and I would like to pursue it as a career," she says. "Modeling can be unpredictable at times, so I wouldn't want to depend entirely on it."

But for now, she enjoys her career in front of the camera, especially the perks that go along with it, like traveling and meeting a lot of people. "Many of the people I've met have different ways of doing and looking at things. I've learned to adapt and find new ways of communicating with them."

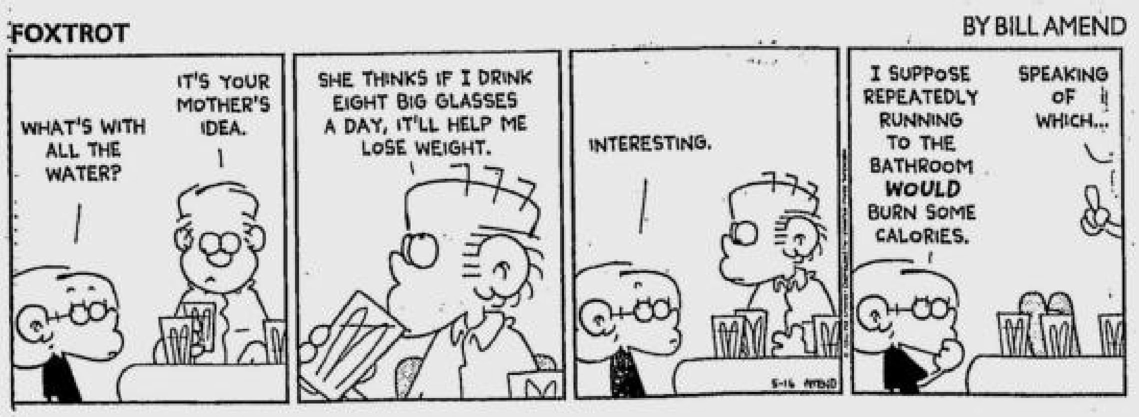
How does she maintain her beauty? "I follow a strict vegetarian diet and I maintain good hygiene," Roces says. Watching what one eats takes vigilance and discipline, but it's by far the best beauty tip she can share with others.

That, and always flashing a smile at everyone. With a smile, she says, "Women can get away with anything."



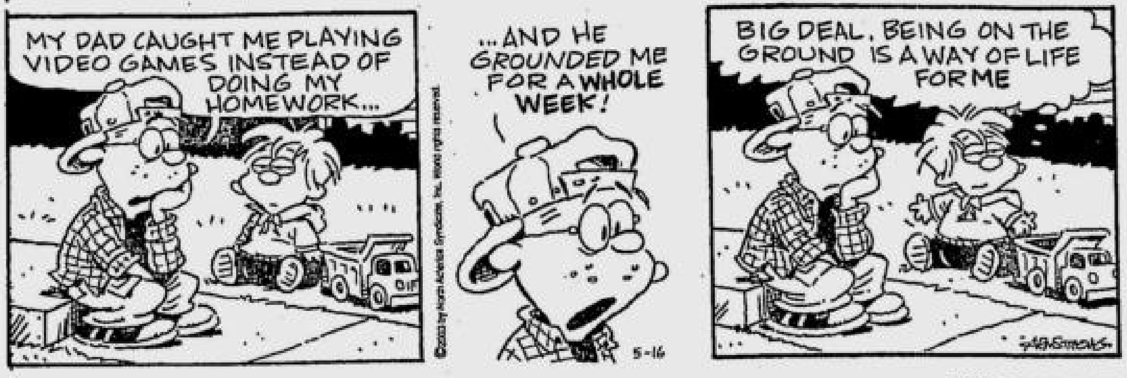
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT'S WITH ALL THE WATER?
IT'S YOUR MOTHER'S IDEA.
SHE THINKS IF I DRINK EIGHT BIG GLASSES A DAY, IT'LL HELP ME LOSE WEIGHT.
INTERESTING.
I SUPPOSE REPEATEDLY RUNNING TO THE BATHROOM WOULD BURN SOME CALORIES.
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
5-16 AMEND

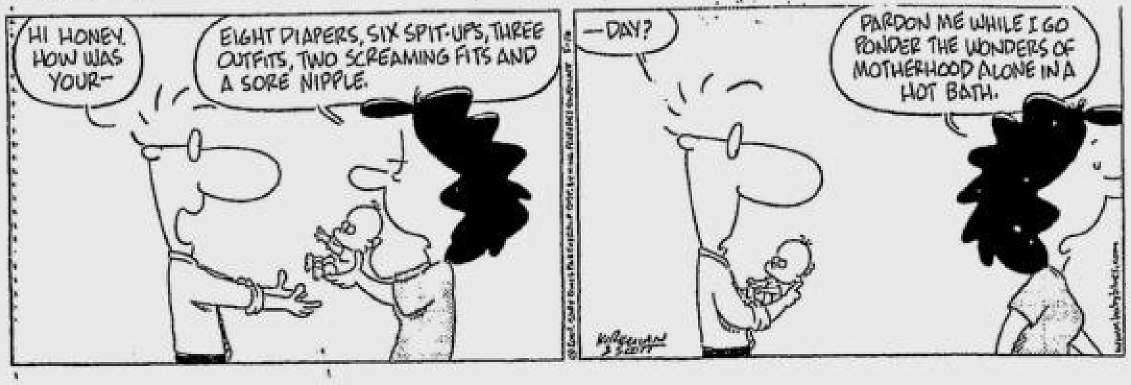
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MY DAD CAUGHT ME PLAYING VIDEO GAMES INSTEAD OF DOING MY HOMEWORK...
...AND HE GROUNDED ME FOR A WHOLE WEEK!
BIG DEAL. BEING ON THE GROUND IS A WAY OF LIFE FOR ME
©2003 by North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
5-16
ARMSTRONG

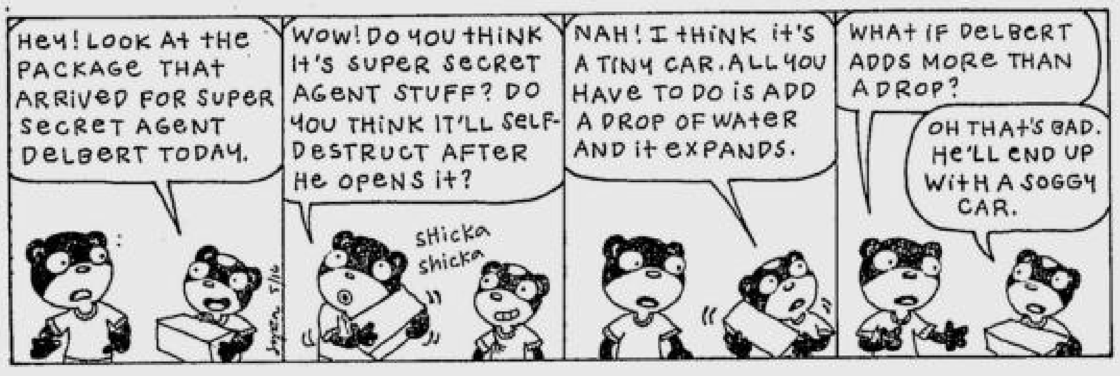
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI HONEY. HOW WAS YOUR-
EIGHT DIAPERS, SIX SPIT-UPS, THREE OUTFITS, TWO SCREAMING FITS AND A SORE NIPPLE.
—DAY?
PARDON ME WHILE I GO PONDER THE WONDERS OF MOTHERHOOD ALONE IN A HOT BATH.
KIRKMAN SCOTT
www.babyblues.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey! Look At the PACKAGE THAT ARRIVED FOR Super Secret AGENT DELBERT TODAY.
Wow! Do you think it's super secret AGENT STUFF? DO YOU THINK IT'LL SELF-DESTRUCT AFTER He opens it?
shicka shicka
NAH! I think it's A TINY CAR. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO is ADD A DROP OF WATER AND it expands.
WHAT IF DELBERT ADDS MORE THAN A DROP?
OH THAT'S BAD. HE'LL END UP WITH A SOGGY CAR.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are intense, dedicated and passionate. You go for the bottom line because you know what you want. Verbally, you're direct and forthright. Others know they can rely on you. You like quality but aren't pretentious. This year is a time of letting go and saying goodbye to create space for something new to enter your life.
Birthdate of: Enya, singer; Dennis Hopper, actor; Sugar Ray Leonard, boxer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): If you're looking for new ways to make money, go back to old ideas you had before. Your best luck now is in the past. Contact old acquaintances.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): For a number of different reasons, your mind is drifting back to the past and wondering what you really value in life. This isn't a Mark Twain moment; this is your private history.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Spiritual teachings or meaningful advice given to you some time ago crops up once again in your mind. Perhaps this is something you should think about.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have an opportunity to see old friends now. More than most signs, you value your meaningful connections from the past. (You are more sentimental than most.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Look to previous opportunities that you had to promote your career. Do not go forward with new ones at this time. Instead, focus on past chances to do things.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): If you travel anywhere now or in the next few weeks, you are best advised to go somewhere you have been before. Leave blazing new trails for another time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good time to settle old debts, tax problems and matters that have dragged on for too long. Just bite the bullet and do it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It is practically inevitable that you will run into old partners and ex-spouses now. To boost your confidence, look your best at all times. (Living well is the best revenge.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Resign yourself to delays and shortages as well as problems due to reduced staff at this time. Don't be negative about it. Face the challenge and do the best job you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Old flames and love affairs from your past haunt you now. You can either think about them or completely put them out of your mind. It's your choice.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Family reunions and discussions with relatives about the "bad old days" are likely now. Be patient and easygoing. Try to promote good times for everyone.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Try to stay on top of your automobile scene. Delays with ground transportation are extremely likely now due to breakdowns and repairs.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Have on
6 Heartthrobs
11 Drag behind
14 Give the go-ahead
15 Impressionist Claude
16 Shoshone
17 Hackneyed writing
19 Zip
20 Program after Gemini
21 City on the Shannon
23 Love-handles makeup
25 Put on again
26 Cruising a beat
31 Rushlike plants
34 Bread
35 Clocked
37 Mr. Ziegfeld
38 Snorkel's pooch
39 Misrepresent
40 Bread unit
41 Bosh!
42 Word before candle or numeral
43 Way from the heart
44 Tom of "Tomorrow"
46 Bakery items
48 Pottery ovens
50 __ 'em, Fido!
51 Actress Aniston
54 Liked from the start
59 Bulldog of Connecticut
60 Cheap eatery
62 "The Santa Clause" extra
63 Sacking fibers
64 Postpone for now
65 Arctic explorer John
66 Dry runs
67 Huskies' pulls

DOWN
1 Netherlands Antilles island
2 Kerplunk cousin
3 Miscellany
4 Croissant, e.g.
5 High school grade
6 Minor devil
7 Voodooist's need
8 TV studio sign
9 Ponderer's phrase
10 Piloted
11 Pitch implement
12 Auricular
13 Champagne music maker
18 Pride signal
22 Awesome!
24 Tribal symbol
26 Bad airs
27 Off
28 Spackling tool
29 Before now
30 Pale purple
32 Gladden
33 Lounge furniture
36 Less
39 Joy Adamson title
40 Mauna __ volcano
42 Kindle anew
43 Waylays
45 Cacophony
47 Give quarter
49 Looks like
51 Scoff (at)
52 Ms. Fitzgerald
53 Mesmerized
55 Iridescent stone
56 Cager Bryant
57 Made known
58 Change for a five
61 Former draft org.

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10	■	11	12	13
14					■	15					■	16		
17					18						■	19		
20						■	21				22			
■	■	■	■	23		24	■	25					■	■
26	27	28	29				30	■	31				32	33
34					■	35		36			■	37		
38				■	39					■	40			
41			■	42					■	43				
44			45			■	46		47					
■	■	48				49	■	50			■	■	■	■
51	52						53	■	54		55	56	57	58
59			■	60				61						
62			■	63					■	64				
65			■	66					■	67				

By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

5/16/03

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

L	O	A	F	S	■	A	V	E	R	S	■	H	E	R
A	R	T	I	E	■	M	O	N	E	Y	■	E	V	A
I	S	T	L	E	■	A	L	G	E	B	R	A	I	C
C	O	U	L	D	N	T	■	■	F	A	I	R	L	Y
■	■	■	U	S	O	■	B	A	E	R	S	■	■	■
S	T	E	P	■	B	U	Y	F	R	I	E	N	D	S
O	R	A	■	I	E	P	E	R	■	T	R	O	O	P
B	U	T	■	C	L	S	■	A	P	E	■	Y	O	U
I	R	A	T	E	■	E	A	M	E	S	■	E	R	R
G	O	T	A	B	E	T	T	E	R	■	P	S	S	T
■	■	■	M	O	S	S	O	■	I	L	E	■	■	■
S	C	O	P	A	S	■	■	C	L	A	S	S	O	F
P	A	N	A	T	E	L	L	A	■	S	T	A	V	E
A	R	C	■	E	N	E	M	Y	■	E	L	L	E	N
T	E	E	■	R	E	I	N	S	■	R	E	A	R	S

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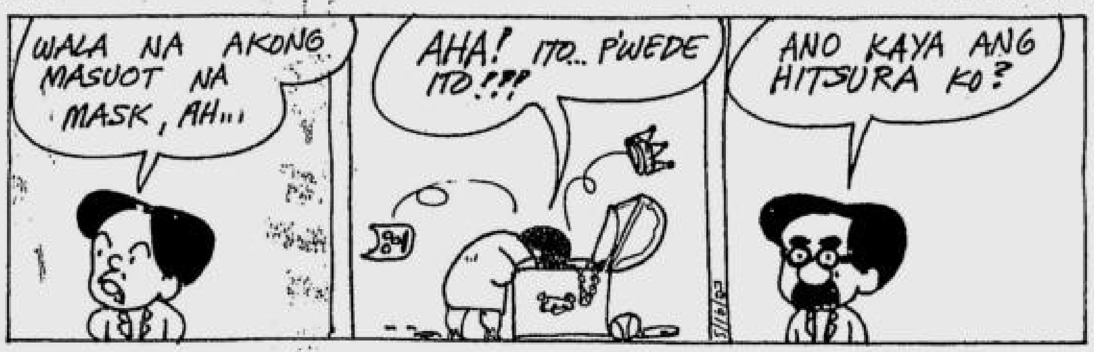
5/16/03

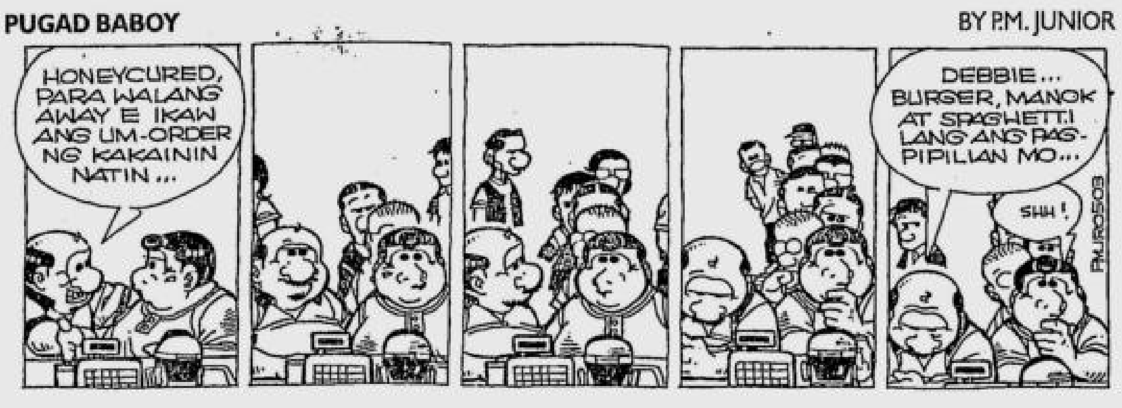
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WALA NA AKONG MASUOT NA MASK, AH...
AHA! ITO... P'WEDE ITO!?!?
ANO KAYA ANG HITSURA KO?

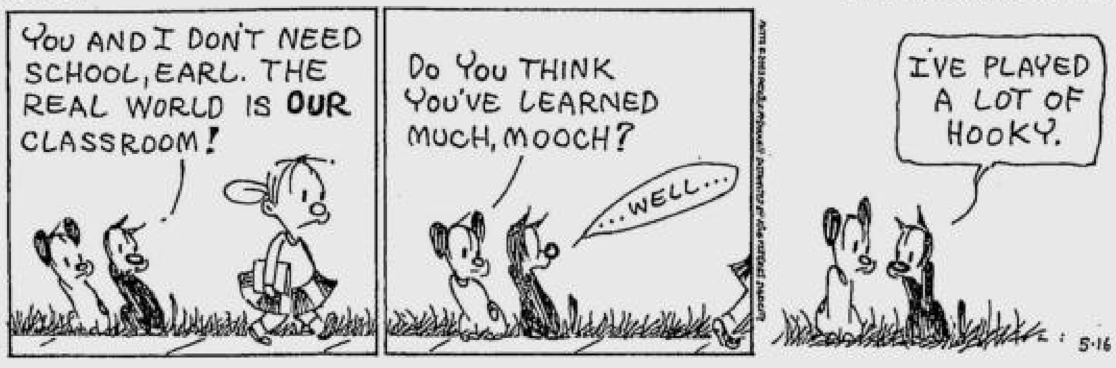
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HONEYCURED, PARA WALANG AWAY E IKAW ANG UM-ORDER NG KAKAININ NATIN...
DEBBIE... BURGER, MANOK AT SPAGHETTI LANG ANG PAG-PIPILIAN MO...
SHH!
PMJR0503

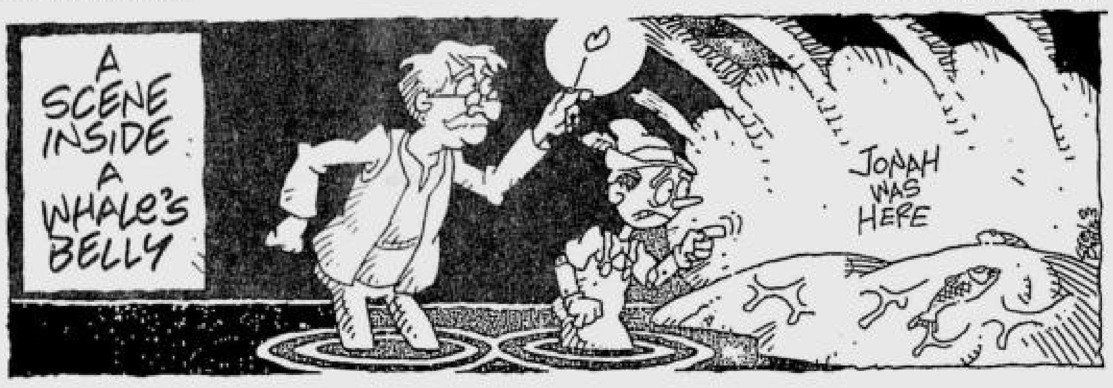
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YOU AND I DON'T NEED SCHOOL, EARL. THE REAL WORLD IS OUR CLASSROOM!
DO YOU THINK YOU'VE LEARNED MUCH, MOOCH?
...WELL...
I'VE PLAYED A LOT OF HOOKY.
5-16

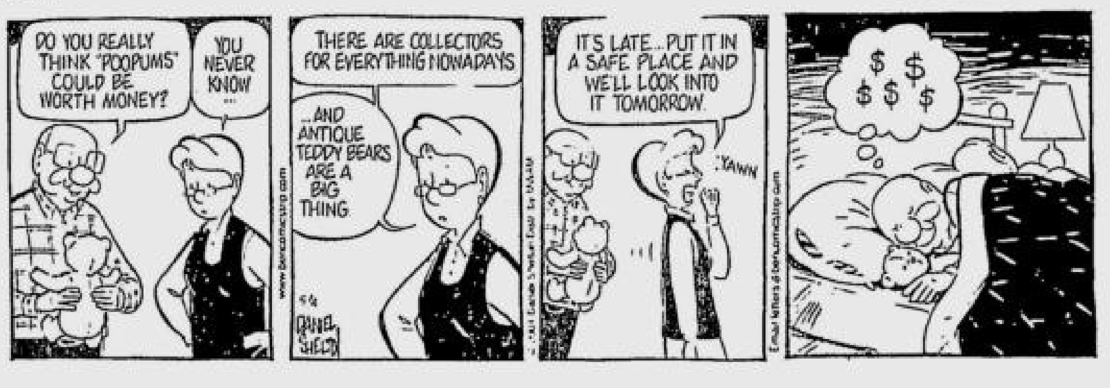
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


A SCENE INSIDE A WHALE'S BELLY
JONAH WAS HERE

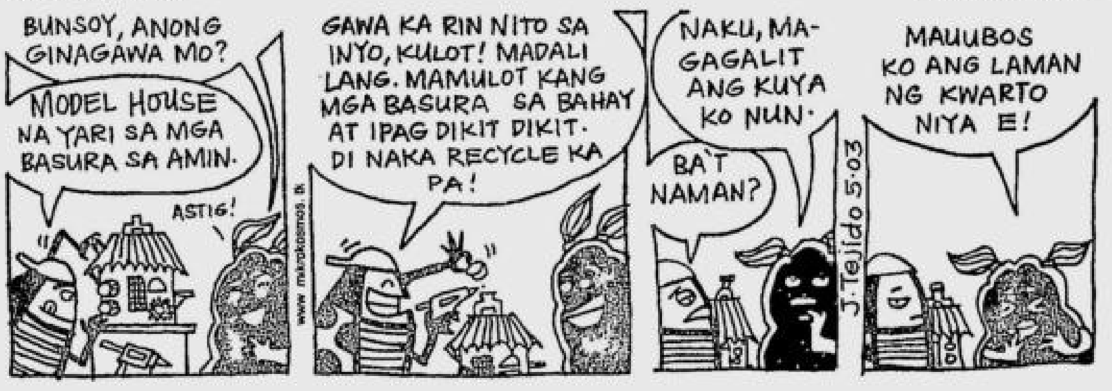
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DO YOU REALLY THINK "POOPUMS" COULD BE WORTH MONEY?
YOU NEVER KNOW ...
THERE ARE COLLECTORS FOR EVERYTHING NOWADAYS
...AND ANTIQUE TEDDY BEARS ARE A BIG THING
IT'S LATE... PUT IT IN A SAFE PLACE AND WE'LL LOOK INTO IT TOMORROW.
YAWN
$ $ $ $ $
www.bencomicstrip.com
DANIEL SHELTON

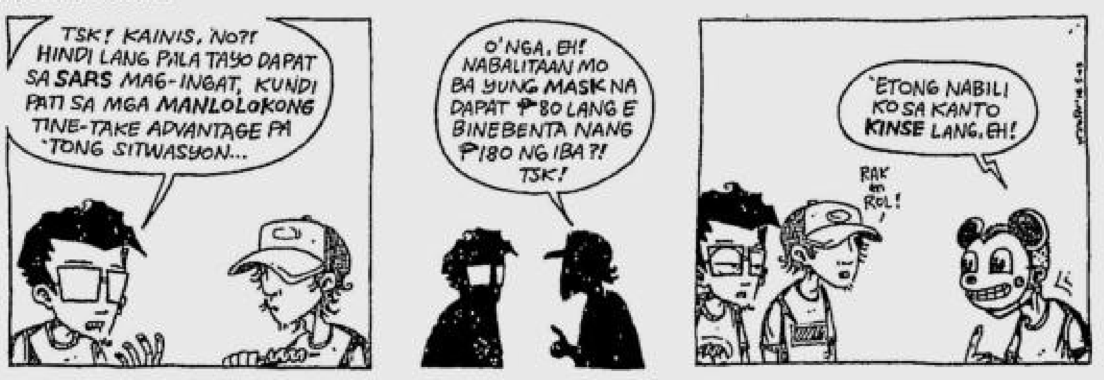
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, ANONG GINAGAWA MO?
MODEL HOUSE NA YARI SA MGA BASURA SA AMIN.
ASTIG!
GAWA KA RIN NITO SA INYO, KULOT! MADALI LANG. MAMULOT KANG MGA BASURA SA BAHAY AT IPAG DIKIT DIKIT. DI NAKA RECYCLE KA PA!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
NAKU, MAGAGALIT ANG KUYA KO NUN.
BA'T NAMAN?
J. Tejido 5.03
MAUUBOS KO ANG LAMAN NG KWARTO NIYA E!

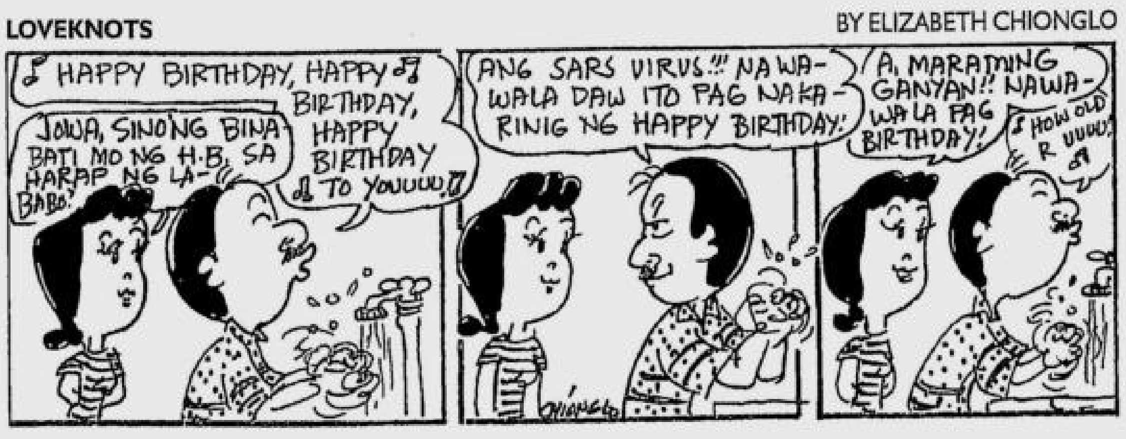
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! KAINIS, NO?! HINDI LANG PALA TAYO DAPAT SA SARS MAG-INGAT, KUNDI PATI SA MGA MANLOLOKONG TINE-TAKE ADVANTAGE PA 'TONG SITWASYON...
O'NGA, EH! NABALITAAN MO BA YUNG MASK NA DAPAT ₱80 LANG E BINEBENTA NANG ₱180 NG IBA?! TSK!
'ETONG NABILI KO SA KANTO KINSE LANG, EH!
RAK en ROL!

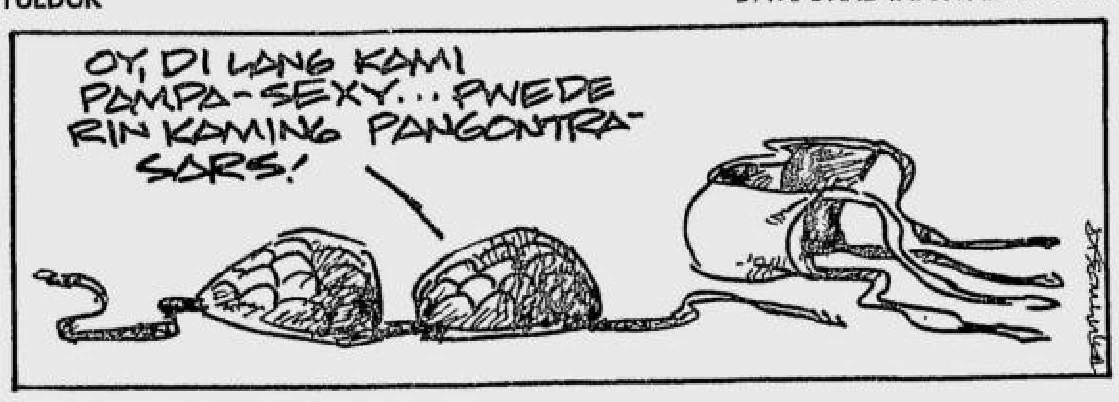
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


♪ HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HAPPY ♫ BIRTHDAY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY ♫ TO YOUUUU ♫
JOWA, SINO'NG BINABATI MO NG H.B. SA HARAP NG LABABO?
ANG SARS VIRUS!!! NAWAWALA DAW ITO PAG NAKARINIG NG HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
A, MARAMING GANYAN!! NAWAWALA PAG BIRTHDAY!
♪ HOW OLD R UUUU? ♫
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING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Registration for lantern tilt ongoing

BIC is slated to kick off the coming school year with an inter-school *parol*-making contest. The *parol* should be made using Bic products like gel pens, sign pens, mechanical pencils, markers, highlighters, tape, glue and barrels of ballpens and glue stick containers as primary materials. Grade school and high school students from private schools within Metro Manila are eligible to join. Call 671-0555/1738 or e-mail ctko@filstar.com.ph. Deadline for registration is on June 30. Entries will be accepted until Nov. 14.

Seminar on migration to Australia

1021 TRAVEL and Tours together with Penkull Grove Consulting Group of Australia will hold a three-day seminar next month for Filipinos who intend to migrate and work in Australia. Neil Donkin of Penkull Grove Consulting Group and IC Pacific will personally discuss "The General Skilled Migration Program." The seminar will be held at 2/F Forab Building, 121 Kamuning Rd., near Edsa, QC. Call 426-7663/7664 or 413-7680.

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